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WASHTENAW
JEWISH NEWS

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Maxwell Street Band to close Yiddish Festival, November 1

Debra Gombert and Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, established in 1983, is the Midwest's premiere Klezmer Band. They will bring the week-long Ann Arbor Yiddish Festival to a close during the first weekend in November. Audiences from throughout Washtenaw County will have a chance to hear the unique blend of the Maxwell Street Band on Saturday, November 1, at Eastern Michigan University and to learn from band members during a workshop on Sunday, November 2. The band will share its take on Klezmer with music that blends Eastern European cadences and African American jazz. Their songs intertwine everything from Russian dances, Chassidic drinking songs, and Hungarian gypsy sounds together with Dixieland; Jazz and Swing; and blues.

Performing throughout the United States and abroad, the Maxwell Street Band has recorded six CDs, five in the United States and one in Europe. They have appeared on movie and television soundtracks in the U.S. and Italy. Some of their tour highlights include performances in The Barbican (London), Carnegie Hall (New York City), and nine overseas tours to Germany, Austria, England, the Netherlands, Norway and, most recently, Lithuania.

"We first heard this group on CDs that we bought because of many recommendations from connoisseurs of Klezmer music, and we were impressed and entertained. Then, last fall, we had the fabulous experience of seeing them in person, beginning with their parading into the hall while playing and their amazing enthusiasm. They are superb musicians, unbelievable talents and remarkable interpreters of a musical genre that we adore. The community will delight in their appearance," shared Henry and Harlene Appelman.

What is "Klezmer music"? A folk music originating from the Jews of Eastern Europe, Klezmer derived its name from a collusion of the Hebrew words "*kley*" (vessel) and "*zemer*" (melody) and dates back to the Middle Ages. Klezmer music was traditionally played by traveling musicians (*klezmorim*) for weddings and other celebrations. It is recognized today by its upbeat dances and its expressive melodies in which the instruments themselves can sound like they are laughing or weeping.

The Maxwell Street Band Sextet

In the United States, Klezmer music became a melting-pot of the Jewish immigrant community. As they came to America's shores,

continued on page 2

Boycott of Israel is topic for talk at EMU

Martin B. Shichtman, special to the WJN

Cary R. Nelson, Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois, will speak on "Bait and Switch: The Purpose of the Movement to Boycott Israel." The talk will take place at Eastern Michigan University Student Center Auditorium, on Wednesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Over the past year, the movement to weaken Israel through Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) has gained significant momentum. In December 2013, the American Studies Association voted to support a boycott of Israeli academic institutions. In June 2014, by a narrow margin, the Presbyterian Church agreed to support a boycott against several Israeli businesses. Resolutions are currently being considered by academic and cultural organizations internationally that would isolate and delegitimize Israel. Activists like Omar Barghouti, who frequently compares Israeli policies to those practiced by Nazi Germany, have spoken in support of the BDS movement at major academic institutions throughout the world.

Cary R. Nelson

A number of American scholars have begun to raise objections both to the tactics and to the motivations of the BDS movement. Perhaps the most important of these scholars is Cary R. Nelson. In a *Wall Street Journal* piece, Nelson expressed concern over "the boycott movement's success at increasing intolerance on American campuses." He noted, "Junior faculty members sympathetic to Israel fear for their jobs if they make their views known. Established faculty who grasp the complexity of Middle East politics hold their tongues for fear of harassment by those who are more interested in offering lessons in contemporary demonology than in sound history."

A former president of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP),

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Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

WJN staff writer

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County will hold its 20th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday, November 23, at 7 p.m., at the Baha'ii Local Spiritual Assembly, 5550 Morgan Road, Ypsilanti. The program will include readings, music, meditations and other unique presentations from a wide variety of faith traditions. Light refreshments will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need in the community. For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides at 424-1535. This event is co-sponsored by Beth Israel Congregation, and other congregations in the community.

Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County

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Yiddish Festival, continued from page 1

Alex Koffman

Jews brought with them their musical styles that they quickly adapted to the instruments and music they found in their new home. The result became a fusion of sounds that is proudly continued by the Maxwell Street Band and other modern Klezmer musicians.

"From its quaint beginnings in the Jewish ghettos of Eastern Europe, Klezmer has driven Western music. Listen to Gershwin, to Leonard Cohen, to Coltrane, to Gogol Bordello; Klezmer is there. It was bluesy before blues, funky before funk, and rocking before rock," said Martin Shichtman, director of Jewish Studies and professor of English at Eastern Michigan University. "No one does Klezmer better than Maxwell Street. This will be a party!"

Maxwell Street Band features singers and a seven-piece klezmer band. Their concert will not only feature music but it will also have a little bit of theater and education. Maxwell Street Band takes education very seriously and established a foundation to fund their work in Chicago area schools to bring their musical traditions to the next generation.

Musicians seeking more education can attend a free master class with Maxwell Street's clarinetist, violinist and pianist on Sunday, November 2, from 10–11:30 a.m., at the Jewish Community of Greater Ann Arbor. All musicians are welcome, but participants should be able to read music and play their instrument at an intermediate or advanced level. The musicians will receive band arrangements and coaching to play in the klezmer style. By the end of the class, the musicians will play together as an orchestra.

Daniel Peisach, founder of local Klezmer/Contra band Twas Brillig and the Mazel Tovs, and frequent band member at AARC, is thrilled to have a chance to hear Maxwell Street Klezmer live. "I learned klezmer through listening to Maxwell Street's recordings, and have been enjoying the recordings for many years." And when he learned about the workshop he said, "Oh Wow! We will get to play with them? Oh, oh, be still my beating heart!"

The concert with Detroit's Kidz Klez as the opening act will be held Saturday, November 1, at the EMU Student Center, main ballroom. The doors open at 6:45 p.m. with the concert and dance party from 7:30 p.m.–midnight. Tickets are $18/adult and $5/student and can be purchased at www.jewishannarbor.org. Children may attend free of charge.

The workshop will be held Sunday, November 2, from 10–11:30 a.m., at the JCC. To participate in this free workshop, register online at www.aarecon.org. Registered participants will be provided with MP3 recordings of music and other materials in advance that will be incorporated into the workshop.

The concert and workshop are made possible in part by a grant secured by the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC) from the Jewish Community Impact Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. The concert and workshop are also sponsored by the Jewish Studies Department of Eastern Michigan University and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and are part of the week-long Ann Arbor Yiddish Festival. ■

Boycott, continued from page 1

Nelson has published thirty books, including *Manifesto of a Tenured Radical* (NYU, 1997); *Revolutionary Memory: Recovering the Poetry of the American Left* (Routledge, 2001); *No University is an Island: Saving Academic Freedom* (NYU, 2010); and, most recently, *The Case Against Academic Boycotts of Israel* (MLAMSR, 2014). He is the subject of *Cary Nelson and the Struggle for the University: Poetry, Politics, and the Profession*, edited by Michael Rothberg and Peter Garrett (SUNY, 2009).

Commenting on Nelson's "magnificent balancing of scholarly attainments with extraordinary activist social commitment," Alan Wald, H. Chandler Davis Collegiate Professor of English Literature at the University of Michigan, notes, "It all comes together because Cary's vision as a scholar is, in fact, the guide to his fierce partisanship for an academic freedom and commitment to a university community vigorously defended by its tenured professors." ■

Cary Nelson's presentation is sponsored by Charles and Rita Gelman.

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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Oscar-winning director to present documentary at JCC and U-M

Hank Greenspan and Karen Freedland , special to the WJN

Malcolm Clarke, a documentary film maker who has received two Academy Awards, will be in Ann Arbor November 9–10 for screenings and discussions of two of his acclaimed films: *Prisoner of Paradise* and *The Lady in Number 6: How Music Saved My Life.* On November 9, screenings and discussion with Clarke will take place at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. *Prisoner* will be shown at 4 p.m., followed by discussion and a catered dinner, followed by a screening and discussion of *Lady* at 7 p.m. The program is part of the 27th Annual Ann Arbor Jewish Book and Cultural Arts Festival. Tickets can be purchased for each film separately at $10 each, or for both plus dinner, for $30. For registration and more information, contact Karen Freedland at tkarenfreedland@jccfed.net or 971-0990.

Clarke (right) with Producer Nicholas Reed and Oscars

On Monday, November 10, both films will be shown again at the University of Michigan with another opportunity to discuss each with Clarke. Screenings and discussion will take place in the Keene Theater in East Quad, 701 East University Avenue. *Prisoner* will be shown at 5 p.m. and *Lady* at 8 p.m. There will be a reception between screenings and plenty of time for Q&A with Clarke after each showing. Co-sponsors for the university showings include the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies; the Sheldon Cohn Fund in the Department of Screen Arts and Cultures; the U-M Department of History; U-M German Language and Literatures; the U-M School of Music, Theatre, and Dance; and the U-M Residential College. Because the Monday showings and discussions are geared toward a university audience, they are free of charge. For more details, contact Henry (Hank) Greenspan at hgreensp@umich.edu or 994-0727.

Prisoner of Paradise is a feature-length documentary that tells the unique story of Kurt Gerron, a German-Jewish actor, director, and cabaret favorite who, among other credits, co-starred with Marlene Dietrich in *The Blue Angel* and sang "Mack the Knife" in the original production of Brecht's *Three Penny Opera*. Captured during the Holocaust, Gerron was imprisoned in Theresienstadt and eventually ordered to script and direct the infamous Nazi propaganda film that described Theresienstadt as a "model ghetto" and "Hitler's gift to the Jews." The film provokes profound questions about the role of art and moral choice within extremity.

The Lady in Number 6: How Music Saved My Life received the 2014 Academy Award for documentary short. It tells the story of Alice-Herz Summer, a concert pianist who was also imprisoned in Theresienstadt, and who managed to perform through most of her time in the camp. The film also raises questions about the role of art within and after the Holocaust. Herz-Sommer continued to teach and play piano until she died at the age of 110, shortly before the Academy Award was announced. She was believed to be the oldest known Holocaust survivor.

Clarke's visit and the screenings of his films are scheduled to coincide with the anniversary of "Kristallnact" or the "November Pogrom"November 9-10, 1938, during which synagogues were torched, Jewish-owned businesses sacked, and thousands of Jews brutalized across Nazi Germany. At both the JCC and U-M, discussions with Clarke will be facilitated by Drs. Hank Greenspan and Irene Butter. ■

Zvi Gitelman to speak on "Jewish Dilemmas in the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict" at JCC Book Festival

Sarah Schneider Hong, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County will partner with the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Annual Jewish Book Festival to offer an evening of learning with acclaimed author and professor Zvi Gitelman, Ph.D. This free community event will take place Saturday evening, November 15, at 7 p.m. The evening will begin with a community havdalah ceremony and dessert reception, followed by Dr. Gitelman's lecture on "Jewish Dilemmas in the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict."

Dr. Gitelman is a professor of political science and Preston Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, where he has taught for over 45 years. Author or editor of 16 books, in 2012 Gitelman published *Jewish Identities in Post Communist Russia and Ukraine: an Uncertain Ethnicity* (Cambridge University Press), based on several thousand interviews. His book *A Century of Ambivalence: The Jews of Russia and the Soviet Union, 1881 to the Present* (2001) has been translated into Japanese and Russian, and will be available for signing and sale at this event. Among Dr. Gitelman's interests is Jewish political behavior around the world.

Many American Jews can trace their family histories to the areas of Ukraine and Russia, which is a cradle of the Ashkenazi Jewish community. The tumult in the region and the dynamic details of the conflict have raised many questions about related Jewish dilemmas and consequences for the Jewish community. "We're extremely concerned with the safety and well-being of the Jewish community in Ukraine," said JFS Executive Director, Anya Abramzon. "Through our partners at Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, we are closely monitoring the situation and are prepared to step in and aid with resettlement if the need arises for Jews to leave Ukraine."

To register for this event, contact Sarah Schneider Hong at 769.0209 or sarah.hong@jfsannarbor.org. ■

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JFS is grateful for a year spent in service to the community

by Anya Abramzon, Rosemary Frenza Chudnof, Kate Papachristou, and Dominic Ortega

As Thanksgiving nears, the board, staff and volunteers at Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County are reflecting on the past year of service to the local community. JFS has been fortunate in many areas, including the expansion of its transportation program, the addition of the Jewish Family Life Education Program (funded by the Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor), its success in building capacity of the JFS Counseling Program, and the continued growth of The Herb Amster Center into a model of social entrepreneurship for southeast Michigan. As JFS prepares to bring 2014 to a close and welcome a new year of challenges, they want to share several stories that exemplify the social work that JFS performs every day in the community.

In August of this year, JFS began a partnership with Yad Ezra, the only all-kosher food bank for Jewish families in Michigan. This collaboration could not have come at a better time for Jewish families in Washtenaw County, as state food benefits have decreased and access to kosher foods can be both expensive and difficult. Yad Ezra is assisting JFS by providing kosher food packages (consisting of two large boxes per family) to 50 Jewish families in Ann Arbor each month. JFS covers transportation and delivery portion of this collaborative effort. This service has been particularly helpful for the older adult Jewish clients, who are very grateful for this substantial and reliable contribution to their diet. JFS houses the only specialty food pantry in Washtenaw County, with kosher, halal, gluten-free, low sodium, infant and adult nutrition. The pantry also provides family personal care products, including toiletries. The addition of the monthly kosher food packages provided by Yad Ezra has strengthened the accessibility of food for Jewish families, and JFS truly values this partnership.

Led by the Herb Amster Center, JFS Counseling Program completed a pivotal transformation process, securing paneling by most major insurance plans. The new capacity, coupled with the addition of new space through the agency's recent space expansion, will help JFS become a preeminent provider of counseling services. The agency is partnering with Washtenaw Health Plan and Community Support and Treatment Services to reach out to members of the community who desperately need assistance, especially those who are homebound and need services to be delivered to them. JFS also works closely with agencies in the Jewish community and its partners in the general community, accepting referrals and responding to a wide range of needs.

JFS's outreach goes beyond the one-on-one work that is done in the community. Through the Jewish Family Life Education program led by Sarah Hong, JFS director of Programs and Outreach, the agency is reaching out to older adults, caregivers, parents, and children, connecting with the entire spectrum of ages, interests and needs. JFS's goal is to educate the community on issues related to self-care, aging, county resources, and opportunities for involvement in social justice projects, all in the context of the Jewish community.

JFS employment staff also has much to celebrate this year. JFS's Employment and Resettlement departments have launched an innovative and exciting recertification program for immigrant professionals. JFS staff has become accustomed to working with refugee clients who, while successful in professional careers in their countries of origin, are forced to take entry-level jobs after arrival in the United States. This often occurs because the clients are unable to afford the necessary coursework to update their degrees, or because of something as simple as lacking the access to a regulatory agency that can translate and certify their foreign degrees. This enforced demotion from professional to entry-level worker often causes discouragement on the part of the refugee, and the community misses out on the benefits of utilizing a trained professional.

Recognizing this ongoing problem, JFS staff presented the issue to the State of Michigan's Department of Human Services, which was impressed with JFS's work and initiative. Starting in April, DHS awarded JFS a new contract to launch its Recertification Program, providing funds to facilitate JFS's immigrant and refugee clients in obtaining recertification that allows them to work in their professional fields in the United States. DHS has been so impressed, in fact, that it has asked JFS to expand the program into several surrounding counties over the coming year.

The Recertification Program is already in place and assisting JFS clients. JFS Career Services Advisor Dominic Ortega has been working with one such client, a man who was an experienced property manager in his home country. After his father was assassinated, the client and his mother obtained refugee status through the State Department and worked with JFS to resettle in Washtenaw County. In meeting with his client, Ortega discovered that his goal was to become a real estate agent. Through the recertification program, he began studying for his real estate licensing exam. Despite his language barrier, the client worked diligently to complete his real estate pre-licensing course, and he then passed the licensing exam. On September 9, the client received his Michigan Real Estate License, and on September 20, he held his first open house.

Everyone at JFS is very grateful to head into the final months of 2014 knowing that they have improved the lives of their clients, in all of their service areas. The agency looks forward to meeting their clients' needs and continuing to serve the community in 2015. ■

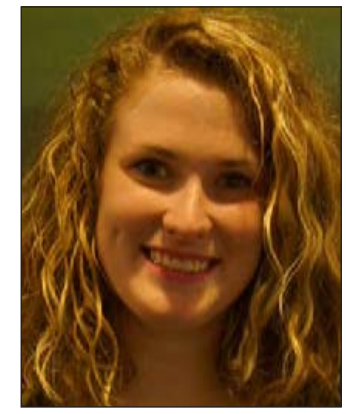
Jewish Family Services welcomes new staff

Rosemary Frenza Chudnof, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County welcomes several new staff members this fall: Leah Zaas, M.S.W.; Danielle Schilhaneck, B.S.W.; Sharon Roberts, M.S.W.; and Erin Kelly, M.S.W.

Leah Zaas is a new member of JFS's Older Adult Services Department. Zaas has several roles at JFS, including case manager, Brookhaven Cultural Hour coordinator, and ElderLink (cultural competency training) coordinator. In addition to her roles at JFS, Zaas is also the JCC's Older Adult Services SPICE coordinator. Zaas received her B.A. from the University of Rhode Island and an M.S.W. degree from Metropolitan State University of Denver. While pursuing her M.S.W., Zaas interned at the Senior Solutions Department of Jewish Family Services of Colorado. Before going back to school, Zaas worked as a school-based therapist at the Community Reach Center in Northglenn, Colorado.

Leah Zaas, M.S.W.

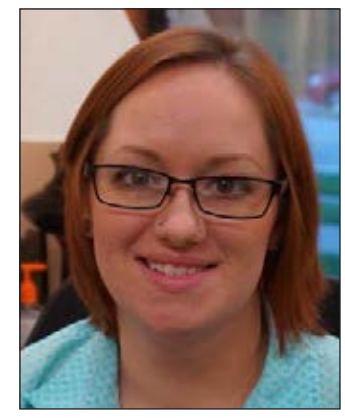


Danielle Schilhaneck, B.S.W.

Danielle Schilhaneck also recently joined JFS as an older adult services case manager. Schilhaneck coordinates care for JFS's older adult clients by assessing their needs, and advocating for resources to improve their overall well-being. Schilhaneck has her B.S.W. from Eastern Michigan University, and is a member of the National Guard. While pursuing her degree, Schilhaneck interned at JFS in the Community Service Department.

Sharon Roberts joined JFS's staff in September as a clinical social worker. Roberts obtained her B.S.W. from Keuka College in New York, and her M.S.W. from Binghamton University in New York. Roberts has five years' experience as a clinical social worker, primarily providing counseling to individuals and families. Her primary role with JFS is to provide counseling services to older adults.

JFS welcomed Erin Kelly to its staff as a development associate in August. Kelly recently earned her M.S.W. from the University of Michigan. While working on her degree, Kelly focused her studies on the management of human services agencies and non-profit development. Kelly also holds a B.S.W. from Ferris State University. Kelly's education, coupled with her experience with human service agencies, has shaped her passion for helping non-profit agencies receive the necessary funds to provide their invaluable services to the community.



Sharon Roberts, M.S.W.

Erin Kelly, M.S.W.

JFS is very pleased to welcome this group of talented people, and their wealth of energy and expertise, to help further the agency's goals. ■

Herb Amster Center's Business Breakfast, November 21

Sarah Okin, special to the WJN

The Herb Amster Center's Second Annual Business Breakfast will take place on November 21, at 7:30 a.m., at the Ann Arbor City Club. This year's topic, "Talent Development: The Key to Your Success," will feature a panel of speakers including Robby Griswold, Community Partnerships coordinator at Zingerman's Community of Businesses; Breanne Stuart, owner of HomeWatch Caregivers of Ann Arbor; and Luke Pinkerton, founder and chief technology officer of Polytorx, LLC. Eastern Michigan University's Center for Advancing Social Enterprise will serve as honorary co-host.

The event will provide an opportunity for the Amster Center to facilitate more relationships between JFS and the business community, and will build on the already successful corporate partnership program the agency launched in 2013. Corporate partnerships are packages of services that are focused on enhancing excellence and productivity in the workplace by training and supporting staff in a wide range of areas. This type of social enterprise is at the core of the Amster Center's mission.

All are welcome to attend; registration is required. Tickets ($25 each) can be purchased from the Amster Center's website: amstercenter.org/newsandevent/. ■

Wishing You a Happy Thanksgiving

Upcoming Events:

Jewish Dilemmas in the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict

Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor

JFS, in partnership with the JCC's Annual Jewish Book Festival, is offering an evening of learning with ***acclaimed author and professor, Zvi Gitelman, Ph.D.*** *This free event will begin with a community Havdalah ceremony and dessert reception, followed by Dr. Gitelman's lecture.*

Many American Jews can trace their family histories to the areas of Ukraine and Russia which is a cradle of the Ashkenazi Jewish community. The tumult in the region and the dynamic details of the conflict have raised many questions about related Jewish dilemmas and consequences for the Jewish community.

To register, contact Sarah Schneider Hong at 734.769.0209 or sarah.hong@jfsannarbor.org

Caregiver Conversations

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 from 6:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor

Caregiver Conversations *is a monthly drop in support group for adult caregivers in a variety of care giving roles.*

To register, contact Leah or Sharon at 734.769.0209

Festival of Lights-International Holiday Party

Friday, December 12, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Cobblestone Farms

For more information or to RSVP, contact Shrina Eadeh at 734.769.0209 or shrina@jfsannarbor.org

Kids Care Fair

Sunday, March 15, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Travis Pointe County Club *- Details coming soon!*

To give or volunteer, go to jfsannarbor.org

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November 21, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. for

The Herb Amster Center 2nd Annual Business Breakfast & Program

at the Ann Arbor City Club:

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Hosted by The Herb Amster Center

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Robby Griswold
(Community Partnerships Coordinator, Zingerman's Community of Businesses)

Zingerman's

Breanne Stuart
(Owner, HomeWatch Caregivers of Ann Arbor)

Homewatch CareGivers

Luke Pinkerton
(Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Polytorx, LLC)

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Emcee:
Jesse Bernstein
Former President, Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce

Advance Registration is Required

$25 Program fee includes a full breakfast at the Ann Arbor City Club

1830 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 *(Valet parking available)*

Payment and registration
http://amstercenter.org/newsandevent/

JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

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SAVE THE DATE!

JFS@UMS 2015 Claire and Isadore Bernstein Award Event
HONORING: Phil & Nancy Margolis
SUNDAY, April 19, 2015 from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Rackham Building - *More details coming soon!*

Rabbi Arik Ascherman to speak on human rights work in Israel

Diane Lehman Wilson, special to the WJN

Rabbi Arik Ascherman will speak on "Current Challenges for and Successes in Human Rights Work in Israel: RHR Beyond the first 25 Years" at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor Thursday, November 20, at 8 p.m. Rabbi Robert Dobrusin of Beth Israel Congregation, Rabbi Michal Woll of Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, and Rabbi Robert Levy of Temple Beth Emeth will also share some insights and comments.

Rabbi Ascherman will meet with University of Michigan Hillel, Jewish Community Leadership Program participants, and other students of diverse viewpoints, on Wednesday, November 19. The following day, at 11 a.m., he will speak at Congregation Kehillat Israel in Lansing, hosted by Rabbi Michael Zimmerman. On Friday, November 21, Rabbi Ascherman will meet with the Michigan Board of Rabbis and will speak at Friday evening services at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield.

Rabbi Michal Woll writes about her year in Israel, as part of her rabbinic training, almost a decade ago: "The political situation was then, as now, quite tense. It did not take me long to discover that I was uncomfortable participating in much of the political activity, feeling conscious that as an American, this was not my government to march against. However, I also had the opportunity to participate in human rights activities, volunteering and learning with groups like Rabbis for Human Rights that focus on service rather than political action.

"Over the year, I had the opportunity to study the Israeli Declaration of Independence with a diverse group of Israelis and others, to better understand the aspirations of the young country. I was a part of a number of trips to the West Bank during the olive harvest, assisting the Palestinian grove owners with safely collecting the year's produce. More than once we were confronted by nearby settlers trying to prevent the harvest. I have vivid memories of climbing trees with the teenagers, sharing a meal, returning with a handful of olives I brined back in my Jerusalem apartment. RHR coordinated with not only the volunteers and the Palestinians but also with the Israeli Army, encouraging their support of the legal rights of these land owners," Rabbi Woll continued. "Throughout these endeavors, it was clear to me the central role Rabbis for Human Rights plays in the country, and in the intervening years, their activities and mission have broadened. Myriad other organizations have developed with a human rights focus. I like to believe RHR was a leader and model. Arik [Ascherman] was certainly one of the most connected and fearless individuals I have ever seen in action."

Rabbi Arik Ascherman

For more than a quarter century, Rabbi Ascherman has led Rabbis for Human Rights in Israel and the Occupied Territories, articulating the traditional Jewish responsibility for the safety and welfare of the stranger, the different and the weak, the convert, the widow, and the orphan, in the face of nationalist and isolationist understandings of Jewish tradition. Rabbis for Human Rights has no political party affiliation.

In addition to raising awareness of the intersections of current events and human rights issues, Rabbis for Human Rights provides a steady stream of Jewish religious education. The website hosts different rabbis' discussions of the weekly Parasha, which highlight the human rights messages built into Torah.

Rabbis for Human Rights' achievements this year include: an RHR petition requesting more resident input on zoning changes has received favorable consideration by the Israeli Court; a curriculum designed by RHR has been adopted by the IDF; and a larger coalition of groups has formed around issues of poverty in Israel with the Knesset discussing public housing more seriously, thanks in large part to the work of RHR Rabbi Idit Lev.

A native of Erie, Pennsylvania, and a Harvard alumnus, Rabbi Ascherman was ordained in 1989 by Hebrew Union College. He is married to Rabbi Einat Ramon, the first Israeli-born woman ordained as a rabbi. Rabbi Ascherman's work with RHR has been recognized by several important honors, from the Abraham Joshua Heschel Award of the Jewish Peace Fellowship in 2005 to the honorary doctorate the Chicago Theological Seminary intends to award him next May.

This event is open to the community free of charge. Co-sponsors include the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Beth Israel Congregation, the Jewish Cultural Society, Pardes Hannah, and Temple Beth Emeth.

For additional information about Rabbi Ascherman's Michigan visit, contact Martha Kransdorf at 663-7933 or mkransdo@umich.edu. For information about a specific event, contact the host organization listed for that event. For more information about Rabbis for Human Rights, visit the website, http://rhr.org.il/eng/. ■

BIC to host Motown Dance Party at LIVE, November 22

Marcie Greenfield, special to the WJN

Beth Israel Congregation's Women's League, Men's Club and Social Action Committee will host a Motown Dance Party on Saturday, November 22, 6:30–9 p.m., to raise money for Beth Israel's Alternative Spring Break program. The party will be at LIVE, located at the corner of Huron Street and First Street in downtown Ann Arbor and will feature Soultivity, Ann Arbor's only all-lawyer Motown/rhythm and blues band, back by popular demand.

Beth Israel's Alternative Spring Break program provides high school students a hands-on opportunity for *tikkun olam* and social justice learning with local community leaders, in partnership with Repair the World. The program was started five years ago by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal and Beth Israel's program director Jake Kander, and alternates each year between Detroit and another city. Last year's group went to Philadelphia, and this year's program will be in Detroit.

Soultivity originally came together five years ago to help its lead singer celebrate her birthday, but the band had so much fun they continued playing together for charity. Soultivity was a finalist in the American Bar Association's 2012 Battle of the Bands and has played numerous benefit concerts.

The Jewish connection with Motown was strong from its earliest days, states an article by Jan Durecki, director of the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin archives at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills, entitled Motown Mensches: Jewish Connections To Motown Records. She writes that Berry Gordy's "journey to success was built not only on the iconic voices of his singers—some of whom were Jewish—but also because of the talents of many Jewish producers, advisors, agents and writers." Gordy "often credited his rise to fame to the brilliance of his earliest record distributor, the Handleman Company, as well as to Al Abrams, Gordy's first full-time employee who became the music firm's public relations director, and to his legal and accounting team of Harold and Sidney Noveck." She noted that the Handleman Company was so powerful that when they told retailers, including those in the South, to stock Motown music, they did it or the Handlemans wouldn't provide the retailer with any records at all.

Soultivity

According to Durecki, Jewish employees made up a large part of Motown's in-house staff. She noted that Berry Gordy said with pride that it was a place where people of all races and religions worked together. Al Abrams and Berry Gordy "thought of each other like brothers," and "Gordy even learned a few Yiddish phrases so he could communicate with Abrams' mother." Abrams is credited with coining the Motown slogans "The Detroit Sound" and "The Sound of Young America, and "worked tirelessly to promote the label." Abrams shared his office with Bernard Yeszin, Motown's art director and photographer, who designed the Motown logo and many of its album covers.

According to Durecki, Martha Reeves, Mary Wilson, Florence Ballard, Smokey Robinson and Bobby Rogers had all been trained by Northeastern High School's Abraham Silver. Silver was credited for giving Martha Reeves her first public solo.

Durecki's article explains that, "In the 1960s, musicians and music labels survived only if radio station disc jockeys chose to play their tunes." Paul Drew, the Windsor-based CKLW radio station's program director, and Robin Seymour, a disc jockey with WKNR in Dearborn, were two of the many that Gordy credits with boosting the Motown label. Durecki also mentions some of the early Jewish songwriters and bands, including the Valadiers, which was the first all-white group signed by Motown whose original member, Stuart Avig, continues to play in and around the Detroit area. She also wrote that Jewish-owned clubs in Detroit "became incubators where the seeds of the Motown sound took root."

Everyone in the community is invited to come enjoy the Motown sound and a nosh from local caterers—all for a great cause. There will be a cash bar. Admission is $10 in advance and $15 at the door. Advance payment may be sent to the Beth Israel office.

"You heard it through the grapevine…" but for more information, contact Marcie Greenfield at marciegreen@yahoo.com or Dennie Carbeck at dencarb@comcast.net. ■

Together we do extraordinary things

By David Shtulman

I love the Federation Main Event. It gives me great pride to see hundreds of members of our Jewish community come together for a common cause. Our community is very diverse—politically, religiously, professionally and demographically. But at the Main Event all the diversity disappears and we become a unified Jewish community. I think that is special.

Our theme last Sunday was "Around the World and In Our Backyard" reflecting the idea that while we live our lives locally, as Jews we live in a truly global community. Participation in the Federation Annual Campaign is the simplest and most effective way to assure that each of us can truly touch the global Jewish community in all their locations.

Ann Arbor's first community Yiddish Festival is just concluding. Coordinated by the Federation with the support and participation of 14 community co-sponsors, the festival included films, reading groups, lectures, and workshops, all anchored by a concert featuring the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, one of the premier Klezmer bands in the United States.

The Federation global network, with its partner agencies, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Joint Distribution Committee and ORT reaches every country in which Jews live. The Federation's network of domestic national agencies including the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Israel Action Network and the JFNA Washington office on Public Policy address a whole spectrum of Jewish needs and interests across our country. Through the Ann Arbor Federation, our donors are participants in every one of these efforts.

A lesser known, but critical, service of the national Federation system is the Secure Community Network (SCN). SCN works closely with Interpol, Homeland Security, the FBI, and local police forces as necessary to monitor threats to the Jewish community and notify Jewish organizations as warranted. A weekly report on all security issues as well as a threat assessment is distributed to Jewish organizations weekly.

Another aspect of Federation that is becoming increasingly important is the Jewish Community Foundation, our planned giving arm. The Foundation enables individuals and institutions to work towards their own future financial security while also assuring the future stability of the Jewish community as a whole.

An October 19 article in The Chronicle of Philanthropy titled, "Shaking Up the Ranks of America's Big Charities" that three of the ten largest charitable organizations now are the philanthropic funds of Fidelity, Schwab and Vanguard. The driver of their growth, as opposed to other national charitable organizations, is the investment in Donor-Advised funds, which allow donors to receive their charitable deduction at the time of deposit and then distribute the funds to other charities of their choice when they choose to do so.

The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Ann Arbor contains 45 Donor-Advised funds for local community members totaling over $1.3 million. The Foundation also holds a range of endowment funds for local congregations, agencies and individuals ranging from bequests and insurance policies to charitable gift annuities and restricted endowment funds. In calendar year 2013, the Jewish Community Foundation distributed $273,000 throughout our community in addition to the $1.43 million raised by our Annual Campaign.

But Jewish life in Ann Arbor is the totality of the efforts of our entire community. Virtually every member of the Jewish community visited a synagogue in October to observe and celebrate the Jewish holidays. Synagogues anchor us spiritually and provide for our life cycle needs at our times of greatest joy and sadness. Our service agencies help us through periods of personal need and crisis. They provide a safe and educational Jewish environment for our children and provide cultural activities and stimulating educational programs for adults. In the coming weeks the Jewish Community Center Book Festival will attract hundreds of people to meet and hear from a variety of local and national authors. Hillels will provide for the needs of the Jewish students on campuses in Michigan and across the country. And the Washtenaw Jewish News will record it all for posterity.

The Jewish people are a collective and it is our collective efforts that create and sustain Jewish life. Together we do extraordinary things. ■

David Shtulman is executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

The Main Event, October 19, 2014

Malcolm and Judy Cohen, featured speaker Norm Ornstein, 12th Congressional District candidate Debbie Dingell

Main Event co-chairs, Larry and Sue Adler, Stacy and Neil Weissman

Reverberations of Russian imperial rule on Jewish life explored in symposium

Yaffa Klugerman, special to the WJN

On November 7, 1917, Russian forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky, resulting in what would be called the Bolshevik Revolution. Almost a century later, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan will mark the day by holding a symposium on Russian Imperial Legacies.

Alex Koffman

The event on Friday, November 7, at the Kelsey Museum, will examine powerful and lasting effects of Russian imperial rule on Jewish social, cultural and intellectual life both within and outside the Soviet Union.

"The papers will address a variety of issues," said head fellow Mikhail Krutikov, who is professor of Slavic and Judaic studies at U-M. "The topics include migration, representations of the Jewish past in museum exhibitions and literature, politics of translation, as well as the life and work of Vladimir Jabotinsky." Jabotinsky, who became an important Zionist Revisionist leader, began his career as a journalist in Russia.

Distinguished scholars from Israel and the United States will join Frankel Institute fellows and U-M professors in the symposium. Among the participants will be Brian Horowitz (Tulane University), Marina Mogilner (University of Illinois at Chicago), Harriet Murav (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Shaul Stampfer (Hebrew University).

The event will highlight exciting aspects of the Institute's year-long theme focusing on Jews and Empires. Established through a generous financial contribution from the Jean and Samuel Frankel Jewish Heritage Foundation, the Frankel Institute provides annual fellowships for scholars and artists around the world. This year's fellows recognize how pervasive was the Jewish imperial encounter and its formative impact on Jewish culture and religion.

"Thinking about Jews and Empires suggests how embedded Jewish life was in an imperial matrix," commented Deborah Dash Moore, director of the Frankel Center and Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History at U-M. "Even after revolutions, Jews continued to draw upon cultural models shaped by empire. This symposium lets us see unexpected dimensions of Russian imperial legacies upon Jews in the 20th century." ■

The Russian Imperial Legacies symposium, sponsored by the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, will take place on November 7, 9 a.m.–2:45 p.m., at the Kelsey Museum, Newberry Hall, Room 125, at 434 South State Street. The event is free and open to the public.

Sessions and presenters include:

Session I: History
9:15–10:45 a.m.
Chair: Eagle, University of Michigan
Jeffrey Veidlinger,Frankel Institute Fellow
Deborah Yalen, Frankel Institute Fellow
Discussant:
Ron Suny, University of Michigan

Session II: Biography – Jabotinsky
11 am–12:30 p.m.
Chair: Maiorova, University of Michigan
Brian Horowitz, Tulane University
Marina Mogilner, University of Illinois, Chicago
Discussant:
Stampfer, Hebrew University

Session III: Culture
1:15–2:45 p.m.
Chair: Benjamin Paloff, University of Michigan
Mikhail Krutikov, Frankel Institute Fellow
Sara Feldman, Frankel Institute Fellow
Discussant:
Harriet Murav, University of Illinois

Beth Israel Congregation November activities

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Love and Treasure by Ayelet Waldman

Tuesday, November 11, 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Public Library (343 South Fifth Avenue)

Ayelet Waldman is the author of *Love and Treasure*, her latest book, as well as Red Hook Road and The New York Times bestseller *Bad Mother: A Chronicle of Maternal Crimes, Minor Calamities and Occasional Moments of Grace*. Her novel *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits* was adapted into a film called *The Other Woman* starring Natalie Portman. Her personal essays and profiles of such public figures as Hillary Clinton have been published in a wide variety of newspapers and magazines, including *The New York Times, Vogue, The Washington Post,* and *The Wall Street Journal.* Her radio commentaries have appeared on *All Things Considered* and *The California Report.* Ayelet's presentation is part of the Jewish Book Festival, and is sponsored by Beth Israel Congregation.

Spotlight Series: Laurel Federbush, Harp Concert

Sunday, November 16, 7:45 p.m.

During this free concert professional harpist Laurel Federbush will present original compositions based on Jewish biblical themes as well as classical works. She is an Ann Arbor-based freelance harpist with a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Toronto and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan. She

Laurel Federbush

has performed in the Livonia Symphony, the Southern Great Lakes Symphony, the Warren Symphony, the Rochester Symphony, and other local orchestras; and has been a soloist with the Jackson Symphony. She plays for weddings and other events anywhere in the Lower Peninsula, drawing upon a wide repertoire of classical, Celtic, and contemporary music; as well as traditional Jewish tunes. Her new CD highlighting her original compositions will be on sale.

Beth Israel's Spotlight Series features lectures, presentations, and performances that highlight the stories, talents and experiences of its members. There is no charge, and the general community is invited.

Shabbat Limmud

Saturdays, November 8 and 22, 9 a.m.

Adults are invited for Torah study over coffee and cake. The discussions, led by Rabbi Dobrusin, are informal, lively and participatory. The study begins with traditional texts and participants add their own thoughts on the Torah, Haftarah portion of the week, or other traditional texts.

Lunch & Learn Series

Wednesdays, November 5 and 19, Noon–1:15 p.m., Garfunkel Schteingart Activities Center (2010 Washtenaw Ave.)

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin and Rabbi Kim Blumenthal lead informal discussions on current topics. Participants are invited to bring a dairy lunch. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

Friday Night Lights and Consecration

November 21, 6 p.m. Service, followed by dinner

This is a family friendly service and dinner program which includes Consecration for all our Beth Israel Gan and Alef students who are enrolled at Beth Israel Religious School or Hebrew Day School . The Shabbat is welcomed at 6 p.m. with a Kabbalat Shabbat Service, which is followed (approximately at 6:45 p.m.) with a dairy dinner. The cost for each dinner is $8 for adults and children over 4 years old. Children under 4 years old eat for free. The deadline for reservations is Monday, November 17.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, November 8 and 22, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is a Saturday morning program/service for parents and their children 2 – 5 years old which includes songs, stories, and prayers. This program is run by Peretz Hirshbein on the 2nd Saturday of the month (with time in the Sukkah this month), and by Jake Kander on the second Saturday of the month. It includes songs, the mysterious "Shabbat Box" a Torah procession with stuffed Torah toys, and a Kiddush for tots. There is no charge for this program.

Mini Minyan (Kindergarten–2nd grade)

Saturday, November 9

At Mini Minyan, kids celebrate Shabbat with the songs and stories they loved from Tot Shabbat while also learning prayers and discovering more about Shabbat and other holidays through discussions, games, and activities. Mini Minyan meets the second Saturday of the month throughout the school year. ■

This month at Temple Beth Emeth

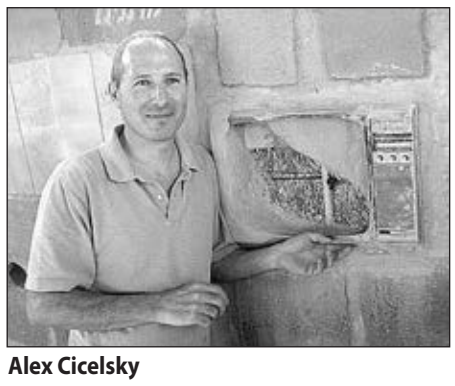
Avital Ostfield, special to the WJN

Scholar-in-Residence

Friday, October 31–Sunday, November 2

The Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) is sponsoring an Israeli speaker and scholar and residence, Alex Cicelsky, for the Shabbat of October 31–November 2. He will also lead weekend adult learning and services.

Alex Cicelsky is a senior staff member and founder of the Center for Creative Ecology



Alex Cicelsky

(CfCE) and a founder of Kibbutz Lotan, a liberal Jewish intentional community actively engaged with the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN). A native of New York, he studied international agriculture at Cornel University's school of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He graduated, following establishment of Kibbutz Lotan, from the Hebrew University Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment with a degree in Soil and Water Sciences and Environmental Quality in Agriculture. Cicelsky completed his master of science degree at Ben Gurion University's Department of Desert Architecture and Urban Planning/ Institutes for Desert Research, while researching development of energy efficient building for extreme climates in conjunction with the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies.

Friday, October 31, 7:30 p.m.

Services with a sermon by Marlene Dodinval, Midwest director for ARZA, and Alex Cicelsky, followed by an oneg with additional presentation about Kibbutz Lotan.

Saturday, November 1, 8:30 a.m.

Bagel breakfast and Torah study with Alex Cicelsky in the Chapel.

Sunday, November 2, 6 p.m.

Alex Cicelsky will lead a program for middle school and high school youth.

Beginning Jewish Yoga

Thursdays at Temple Beth Emeth in the Social Hall noon–1:15 p.m. Semester runs October 30–December 18, $85. For more information, contact aostfield@templebethemeth.org.

"Small Children Disturb Your Sleep, Big Ones Your Life" (Yiddish Proverb): A Workshop for Parents of Teens and Emerging Adults

Sunday, November 2, 6 p.m., Chapel

Participants will discuss what underlies the anxiety and distress commonly experienced by parents of teens and emerging adults. Tips will be offered for better managing worry and disappointment, with the goal of a healthy adult relationship with your child. Ruth Moscow-Cohen, M.S.W., will facilitate this discussion. Moscow-Cohen is a TBE member and mother to three adolescent/young adult daughters. She maintains a private psychotherapy practice where she works with teens, adults and families.

"Beyond Pentateuch: The Rest of the Hebrew Bible"

SooJi Minn, special to the WJN

Temple Beth Emeth invites all interested members of the Jewish community to attend a series of five adult education seminars on the post-Pentateuch books of the Hebrew Bible, collectively titled "Prophets and Writings." These works of prose and verse of many genres, the source of the Haftarah readings, are less familiar than the weekly Torah portions. This is a great loss, and these seminars will begin to fill the void. Discussions will be non-theological, with leaders presenting the findings of archeology, literature/linguistics, ethnography, and history. An open discussion will follow each scholar's introductory talk. Refreshments will follow.

Dr. Lisbeth Fried will lead a session on Amos, on Thursday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m., at TBE. Dr. Philip Schmitz will discuss Phoenician prophecy in relation to the Hebrew prophets on January 15. Look for additional information in future editions of *Washtenaw Jewish News*. While the sessions are open to all who wish to drop in, preregistration is recommended for those who want to read the focus text in advance (texts to be sent electronically.) To learn more and to preregister, contact Leonore Gerstein at lbmgerst@gmail.com or 930-1673.

Dr. Lisbeth Fried

[E]met: An Honest Conversation about Death

Monday, November 10, 7 p.m.

Remember the two topics never discussed at the dinner table—sex and death? Come join the first of an ongoing monthly discussion group about death. The purpose is to increase the awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.

[E]met is a group-directed discussion of death with no specific agenda other than to share stories, ideas and experiences. While a decidedly Jewish context will be offered, the discussion is not limited by any one belief.

[E]meth is not a grief support group or a counseling session, but rather an opportunity to grapple with this important part of life within a community of others, And of course, to share a nosh. This is co-facilitated by Brian Ashin, LMSW, CGP, and Rabbi Levy. For more information, contact aostfield@templebethemeth.org.

Shalom Gever

Mondays and Wednesdays, November 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, 17, 19, and 24; 4:30–8 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth's Martial Arts for Health, Fitness and Self-defense. Open to grades K–12. Grades K–2 meet from 4:30–

continued on next page

The faith I bring to spiritual direction

Linda Leah Greene, special to the WJN

In the Jewish tradition, life is a journey in which you find spirituality. Abraham and Sarah are called forth to leave everything they have known behind them, to trust the Voice that has called to them to make a new covenant of Faith. Jacob's journey is an escape from the consequences of his trickery, but he still meets Divine beings going and coming. Joseph is sent unwillingly on his journey and is gifted with prophecy. Moses flees, meets God, and returns to lead the greatest journey of our people. The Exodus narrative serves as metaphor for each of our journeys from our narrow places to our more enlightened and liberated selves.

My journey started as a young child with the yearning to be connected with something greater than myself. I had to leave behind my family's attachment to rationality and pragmatism and search for a transcending relationship with the Divine. Life experience and studies in healing, traditional Jewish liturgy, Scripture and Kabbalah have led me to my current Faith.

I believe in an organizing unifying force, love, and balance in the Universe. The watchword of Judaism is *Adonai Echad.* (Deut. 6:14) God is Oneness! I choose to call that creative and unifying energy God, the Holy One of Being, *Yud Hay Vuv Hay* self-named and described as all pervasive through space and time as Beingness Itself. (Exodus 3:14). I believe that when we cultivate a place for that Divine love and intelligence we notice that it is an inherent part of us. "Let them make me a sanctuary and I will dwell within them." (Exodus 25:8). The *Schema*, our covenant with God is contained in love: *Ahava Raba Ahavtanu*; a Great Love loves us (daily liturgy) *V'ahavta et Adonai*… You shall love the Holy One of Being with all you heart with all your might and with all your being…" (Deut. 6:5).

I accept evil and tragedy in the Universe as part of the Divine plan either as pure mystery, and/or the result of cumulative misguided free will. When I seek assistance in scripture to understand the mystery, I turn to the book of Job. God speaks to Job out of the tempest, saying I am the God of ALL things, including adversity …. "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Speak if you have understanding." and "Do you know the laws of Heaven or impose its authority on Earth?" Job 38:4 and 33. Despite this grounding in text, acts of God, hurricanes, earthquakes, draught, famine, and the manifestation of human limitations and misguided free will in the form of evil acts, war, the Shoah, genocides, and torture can test my Faith. Human suffering through abuse, illness, death, and separation is something I wrestle with as I seek to help others in my roles as a healer, a St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor hospital chaplain and a spiritual director.

Life experience and studies in healing, traditional Jewish liturgy, Scripture and Kabbalah have led me to my current Faith.

Like Jacob, after putting my head down upon the stone of rational limitation, I have come to learn that it is my work to notice God in creation at all times; Jacob says, "Surely God was in this place and I did not know it!" (Gen. 28:12-16) Striving to see the Divine in each person whether the encounter seems negative or positive is life's hard but enriching work. The early Kabbalists greeted each other with the phrase "It is so good to see the face of the *Shekinah* (the indwelling presence of God). I believe that God is present within our hearts, and more God energy flows in when we are truly present to each other. Even when the spark of holiness takes the form of anger or negativity, it is a form of yearning for loving acceptance and unity with the Greater Love. I believe this whether or not the other person believes in God.

I have come to see that my life's experiences have contained higher guidance. How else did I have that inner knowing of who to pick as friends, what work to do or reject, which of those boys to marry, which really big mistakes to integrate as life lessons. I came to notice guidance in a more overt way when I became an energy healer. I learned to listen with my heart and hands, to be guided by "intuition." I experience a communication between the client's wisdom of what is needed and my ability to respond. Now I am cultivating that receptivity when in a deep listening relationship as a hospital chaplain or a spiritual director.

I enhance my faith by noticing the Divine as it manifests in the wonders of nature and the diversity of people and life experience. I use the practices of gratitude, study, devotion, meditation, prayer, chant and service to keep me in this consciousness.

Exploring sacred texts has many dimensions. One of the most reassuring is: Although many of the protagonists in Tanakh are imperfect they are in active overt relationship with God. This provides hope to me and to those I counsel that despite our failings we too can be in direct relationship with God.

The practice of contemporary chant based on scripture has been a major form of study and source of personal introspection and healing for me. The wisdom and comfort available in our Psalms, Prophets, Song of Songs among others, has provided me many insights and transformative experiences. I feel held and supported by my Judaism.

In Leviticus 19:1 we are told, "You shall be Holy because I, your God, am Holy. "I have studied the Kabbalistic Divine traits known as the *Sephirot* and the *middot*, character traits, of Mussar to attempt to live this commandment. Our task as humans is to notice, cultivate, refine, balance and radiate these qualities, (to be the subject of future articles).

We are all part of God's Unity we therefore have the capability and responsibility to participate in the on-going co-creation and repair of the world, *tikkun olam*. At every stage of life we have divine purpose, something important to complete, God's work; whether it appears as simple as caring for a garden, or pets or as big as a scientific career. I believe all service is equal in the Divine plan.

The past 10 years have been an intense time of noticing and responding to "calls' and signs in my life. I feel a little like a small boat in a churning sea on a long journey to a distant destination. Things go best when I simply surrender and let God's waves take me on my course. Some days are gorgeously sunny with clear sailing, a sense of steady course to a known port. Some days are dark and tumultuous lurching me into the scary unknown. I feel a heightened sense of being alive, sea salt air stinging my face, warm sun, harsh wind, soothing rocking. I am living in trust that the journey is purposeful. I feel accompanied by *Shekinah*. I have the extraordinary blessings of security through my loving marriage and the support of an extensive faith community. God has something in mind for me. I need to receive all the holy gifts along the way, so I can share God's treasures with others at the various ports of call on my Faith journey. I believe each of us is on a similar journey whether we are noticing it or not. We are here to accompany and support each other on these journeys.

These are the major experiences and influences that have formed my evolving faith. They are a subset of the many tools available to explore faith. Each seeker will elicit the practices and resources appropriate to their spiritual journey. Until recently all the teachers who offered these tools have lived or visited here in Ann Arbor or Michigan. This confirms the teaching in Deut. 30:12-13. "It is not in heaven…nor is it beyond the sea…No it is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, and you can do it." ■

Activities at TBE, continued from previous page

5:15 p.m.; grades 3–5 meet from 5:15–6 p.m. or 6:15–7 p.m.; grades 6–9 meet from 7:15–8 p.m.; and grades 10–12 meet from 7:15–8 p.m.. Questions? Contact Rabbi Peter Gluck at info@shalomgever.com or SooJi Min at 665-4744.

Nosh and Nowledge led by Rabbi Levy

Monday, November 3, 7 p.m.; Thursday, November 6, noon

What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank: Stories by Nathan Englander (2012).

The author of the sensational national best seller *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*, this book establishes Nathan Englander beyond all doubt as the heir to Roth, Malamud, and Babel.

Families with Young Children (FYC): Shabbat activities

Fridays, November, 7, 14, 21, and 28

Tot (0–5 year olds) Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Levy, and Cantor Hayut, 6 p.m.
Dinner for Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m.
Popsicle Oneg, 7 p.m.

Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Levy will lead Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m. Join in for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce, and salad bar at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is $5 per person and this year a $20 punch card can be purchased ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office.

Women's Torah Study

Mondays, November 10, and 24, 7 p.m.

An in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion led by Cantor Regina Hayut. The group will explore various passages from the portion looking at several translations and commentaries from a variety of scholars from Talmudic times to the modern day. No Hebrew knowledge necessary to participate in the discussion. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org

Men's Torah Study Reinvented

Monday, November 10 and 24, 7 p.m.

A men's Torah discussion group will be led by a lay leader on the 2nd Monday and by Rabbi Levy on the 4th Monday. For more information, contact Bill Parkus, parkus@comcast.net.

Cantor Regina Hayut's Installation

Friday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.

Join Temple Beth Emeth for Cantor Hayut's installation. The service will include music with Kol Halev and remarks and teaching from the TBE installation guest, Rabbi Joel Soffin. It is a formal affair with festivities for all. Following services, there will be a fancier wine oneg, as well as special kid-friendly treats.

Comforting the Mourner: A Prep Class for Leading/Attending Shiva Minyan

Monday, November 17 at 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. and 7 – 8 p.m.
Wednesday November 19 at 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. and 7 – 8 p.m.

One of the greatest mitzvahs in Jewish practice is comforting the mourner. However, many find themselves uncomfortable visiting a shiva house. In these one-hour class sessions, participants will learn the traditions involved in visiting a house of mourning and how to participate in and even lead a shiva minyan. All participants will receive take home materials for future reference.

Youth activities

AARTY presents JNN: Jewish Nerd Night
Sunday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.

Join in for the first of TBE's monthly Jewish Nerd nights. Open to all youth from 9–12 grade. Contact Aaron Jackson to attend and for information on joining AARTY, at aroniousj@gmail.com.

Rishonim goes bowling
Sunday, November 16, Noon–1:30 p.m.

Meet at Colonial Lanes, 1950 South Industrial Hwy, for a great evening with food, fun and lots of bowling. The event is open to youth from 3–5 grades. RSVP by November 10 to TBEYouth.Annarbor@gmail.com

Kadima will be joining the AARTY-ites for NFTY fall Kallah
November 21–23

Join us for NFTY-Michigan's Fall Kallah and simultaneous Junior Youth Group Retreat.

YMCA Mystic Lake Camp—Finding Your Passion

Teens in grades 9–12 will join together for a weekend of exploring areas they are passionate about as they delve into various social action topics and discover what some of their personal passions are. NFTY's North American President Debbie Rabinovich will be attending. Teens who join in for this event will have the opportunity to enjoy fun programs to discover what is really important to attendees, enjoy camp-style services, and experience a weekend away with friends. This event is also open to middle school youth. Contact Aaron Jackson for more information at aroniousj@gmail.com. ■

Traveling different roads

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

During the month of November, we read from the sections of the book of Genesis that tell the stories of our patriarchs and matriarchs. We are once again engrossed in the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah and Rachel. These stories enable us to use our ancestors as role models for faith.

But, even when we take into account differences in ethics and family dynamics between the biblical era and contemporary times, many of the actions of our patriarchs and matriarchs are questionable to say the least. We should certainly not seek to emulate all of their priorities and actions in our daily lives.

The beginning of the Torah's narrative of Abraham (then called Abram) in Parashat Lech Lecha is a beautiful story with much to teach us.

God tells Abram: Lech Lecha Mayartzecha, "Go from your land, from your birthplace, from your father's house to the place that I will show you". And there, says God, "I will make you a great nation."

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

It is interesting to note that just before God's command to Abraham, the Torah states that Terach, Abram's father, began to travel with his entire clan towards Canaan. But, Terach died on the way, never having reached Canaan.

God's command to Abram, telling him to continue to Canaan comes therefore at a significant time. I believe that God is telling Abram to continue to Canaan for a different reason than his father had in making the trip.

Terach's journey with his family was presumably journey for better pastureland. God tells Abram to make this a spiritual journey that would take him away from the lessons his father had taught him towards new truths and new ideals.

I find this story very moving as it mirrors experiences that many of us have had in our own lives.

It is human nature and it is certainly healthy for children to aspire to be different from their parents. While as parents we seek to influence our children and provide them a foundation to build on, we must recognize that they are on journeys of their own and that the time will come when they will leave "their father's and mother's house" and go to a different place.

There will, hopefully, be significant similarities in the place the children decide to "pitch their tent." We hope they will adopt our priorities, our principles and our connection with our people. But, their journeys are their own and we should celebrate as they find their own way in the world, continuing their journeys to the land they believe they must head.

It is interesting to note how different Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph were from each other. Each added his own stamp on what it meant to be a Hebrew. Each traveled in their own way. Just as Abraham continued his father's journey in a way Terach would probably not have gone, so do our children have their own pilgrimages to take and their own journeys to enjoy.

As we read through the stories of Genesis, let us realize that our children are reading the stories differently and let us realize how truly wonderful it is that they relate to the characters differently than we do. May our journeys as a people continue, each new generation finding new paths and new worlds to discover. ■

A lesson from Abraham

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

This first week in November we will be reading the Torah portion Vayeira in which God visits Abraham and later reveals His plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham's reaction to the news of the imminent destruction of the two cities seems surprising. He uses all his persuasive power in an attempt to convince God to rescind His plan to destroy them. Abraham approached God and asked, "Will you kill the righteous together with the wicked?" The Torah commentators are interested in the particular wording that Abraham "approached" God since in the previous verse it is clearly stated that Abraham was already standing directly in front of God. What could this particular wording be telling us?

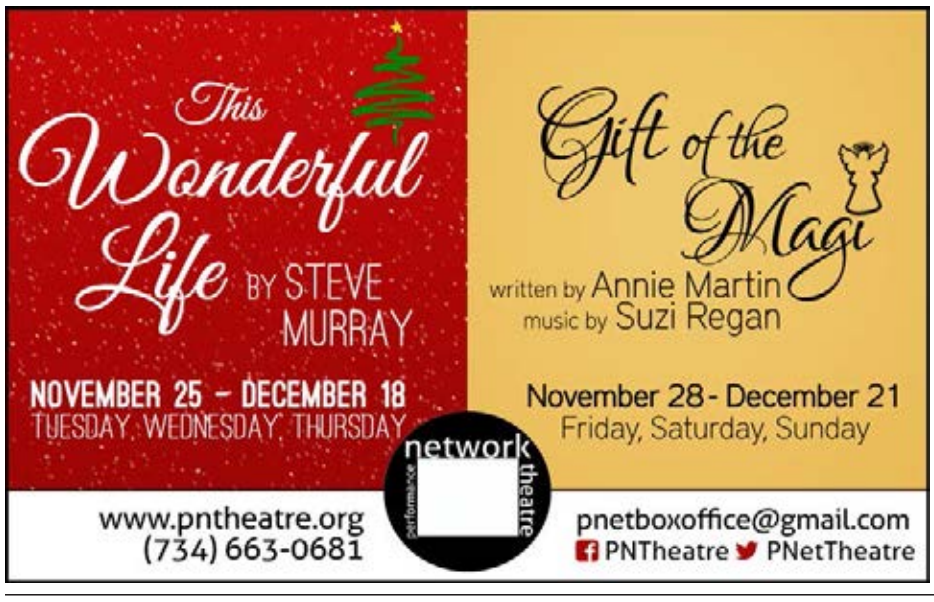
Rashi says that the word to "approach" is found in the Torah in three different contexts. One is in preparation to waging a war. A second is approaching a person to appease them. The third is approaching God in prayer. Rashi concludes that the fact that the Torah uses the term "approached" in describing Abraham's interaction with God, the encounter encompasses all three of the contextual meanings of the verb. Firstly, Abraham was engaging God in a battle of wills of a sort to hopefully get God to change His mind on the issue. Secondly, Abraham was trying to appease God in order to rescind the harsh decree. Thirdly, he approached God in supplication as in prayer to implore Him to nullify His plan. By using this three-pronged approach, Abraham hoped to convince God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah. So the Torah is telling us that Abraham went out of his comfort zone—out of his usual countenance of extreme kindness and love—and approached God, firstly in a manner much different than his normal demeanor—by harshly and with severity battling God—only secondarily appeasing and praying and behaving with his normal kindness and compassion for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Why does he use the opposite of his nature firstly and only subsequently revert to his normal nature? This is an important question in Torah commentary. In answering this question, we reveal the greatness of Abraham.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

Abraham was indeed naturally kind and loving but that countenance was also derived from his relationship with God. It was in addition to his natural proclivity to be kind. It was a result of his self-subjugation to the will of God. What proves that he exhibits these behaviors because they are needed for his service to God and not only his natural demeanor? When Abraham had to act in the opposite way to kindness, he did so with the same devotion and commitment as if it were his natural inclination. He did what was needed to be a faithful servant to God. Part of Abraham's mission in life was to bring kindness and compassion to people. Despite their wicked behavior, he felt compassion for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Without hesitation he went against his kind nature and spoke harshly to God because he wanted God to rescind His decree so that one day the people of the two cities might awaken spiritually and repent of their wicked behavior and resolve to improve by returning to the path of behavior that God set out for all of us in His Torah. Abraham felt compelled to do whatever he could to save the people from destruction. He understood that the only way to get God's attention, so to speak, was to approach Him in a demanding, harsh manner that was out of the ordinary for Abraham. He didn't hesitate by over-thinking the issue and weighing whether God's decree was immutable, he saw people in danger and had to, by whatever means necessary—even opposite his nature, do what he could to save them.

This type of behavior by Abraham is a practical lesson for all generations. When there is a Jew that we can help—either spiritually or physically—we shouldn't hesitate to act by over-thinking or second-guessing or deciding whether or not the person is deserving of our intervention. Our father Abraham didn't hesitate, over-think, or weigh the merits regarding the indisputably wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah whom God Almighty Himself had decreed for destruction. He felt that if there's life, there's hope. If he could save them from destruction perhaps he could influence them so that one day they would choose to do teshuva—regret their wicked behaviors, resolve to improve in the future and return to the way of life God wants from us as He laid out in the Torah. So our lesson is that we all have the obligation to help and save another Jew even if we have to go, with great difficulty, against our nature to accomplish this Holy mission.

Just like Abraham "engaged" in all three of the aforementioned aspects; demanding, appeasing and praying. So too do we have to "engage" with all our heart, all our soul, and all our might in our service to God. As the saying goes: "If we do our best, God will do the rest." ■



JLI class looks at positive psychology in Jewish thought

By Yaakov Diamond

When Israeli-born psychologist Tal Ben-Shahar began teaching a class called Positive Psychology at Harvard in 2006, a record 855 undergraduate students signed up for his class. Droves of students at the academically intense university came to learn, as the course description puts it, about "psychological aspects of a fulfilling and flourishing life."

Speaking to the *Harvard Crimson*, Ben-Shahar attributed the class's high numbers to one simple factor: "…People want to be happy. Whether it is at Harvard or any other place, people want to be happier. [...] There are over 200 campuses just in the United States alone where positive psychology is being taught, and on most campuses it is one of the, if not the, largest class."

Over the last 50-odd years, modern psychology has focused predominantly on mental illness, yet in recent years the emphasis has begun to pivot away from what makes life miserable, towards the positive: What makes life worth living? What makes happy people happy? And while this may be a relatively new topic for psychologists, it's one that was addressed by Jewish wisdom and mysticism centuries ago.

Beginning November 11, the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will present "How Happiness Thinks: Jewish Perspectives on Positive Psychology," the institute's new six-session fall 2014 course. Rabbi Aharon Goldstein will conduct the six course sessions on Tuesdays at Chabad House, 9:30–11 a.m., and at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, 7:30–9 p.m. Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's headquarters in New York says that being happy can depend on one's perspective, explaining, "How Happiness Thinks is based on the premise that to be happy, you can either change the world, or you can change your thinking."

While drawing on 3,000 years of Jewish wisdom on happiness, the course, which was prepared in partnership between JLI and the Washington School of Psychiatry, builds on the latest observations and discoveries in the field of positive psychology. "How Happiness Thinks" offers participants the chance to earn up to 15 continuing education credits from the American Psychological Association (APA), American Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), California Board of Behavioral Sciences (CBBS), Social Work Board of the State of Maryland, and the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).

"How Happiness Thinks" brings together modern research in positive psychology and ancient Jewish wisdom," explains Ben-Shahar, a renowned expert in the field who has authored five books and today teaches at IDC Herzliya, "This marriage between theology and science can bring about significant positive change in individuals and communities."

The course explores to what degree surroundings and circumstances effect ones overall happiness, potential challenges to living a joyous life, and whether God cares if people are happy or not.

"The course focuses on ways to overcome the challenges that get in the way of our happiness, including stress, grief and self-concept," says Rabbi Goldstein. "But we're also going to discuss techniques to boost our happiness, such as humility, gratitude and meaningful living."

Like all previous JLI programs, "How Happiness Thinks" is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call 995-3276 x 2 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and other course-related information. ■

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 350 U.S. cities and in numerous foreign locations, including Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela. More than 260,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998.

Jewish Educators' Council to present PJ Library event with puppeteer Marilyn Price

Cindy Saper, special to the WJN

Parents and children from preschool through first grade are invited to attend a PJ Library event on Sunday, November 2, from 9:30–10:30 a.m., at Beth Israel Congregation. The program will include a puppet performance visiting scholar-in-residence Marilyn Price. A renowned puppeteer, Price will present a finely-crafted performance of folktales and original stories. The event is sponsored by the Jewish Educators' Council.

Marilyn Price

Price's focus on Jewish values and her original puppets present an opportunity to introduce all families with young children to the PJ Library program. PJ Library promotes Jewish stories by sending each enrolled child a monthly gift of a Jewish book or CD. With the support of the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor has partnered with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to make sure that every young family can build their own home Jewish library.

During her visit to the community, Price will perform at the Early Childhood Center of the JCC, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation Beit Sefer, Jewish Cultural Society School, Temple Beth Emeth Religious School, and Beth Israel Religious School. She will also be presenting a workshop for all local teachers. For more information about the PJ Library Event or to RSVP, contact Hadar Dohn at hdohn@hdsaa.org or Cindy Saper at school@bethisrael-aa.org. ■

KidZone launches @Night Program for youth

Clara Silver, special to the WJN

Along with bringing its youth programming under the umbrella of KidZone, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will be launching a revitalized Saturday evening program for youth in a newly renovated youth-friendly space, the KidZone lounge. On November 15, from 6–10 p.m., "KidZone @Night" will kick off with an evening of games, food, and fun for youth in kindergarten through fifth grades. The participants will kick off the "parent free" evening with a hot pizza dinner, and then enjoy sports and games in the gym, as well as all the features of the KidZone lounge itself, fully supervised by current youth department staff.

The KidZone lounge is a brightly lit "hang out" space that includes a wide range of amenities and technology. Not only does the room include a full size refrigerator, sink, and bathroom, but also laptop computers, a flat screen television, a comfortable sectional couch, tables and chairs, and a range of books. The most popular additions are the foosball and air hockey tables. Already being used for the KidZone Afterschool program, JCC Scout meetings, and multiple Early Childhood Center enrichment classes, the KidZone lounge is as busy as the previous youth space, the Maas Lounge, now a multi-purpose space. Renovating the former "frog room" into a new "kid zone," the

JCC's youth department has raised the bar to provide families with not only a new space, but with high quality youth-centered programs that meet the needs of today's tech savvy kids.

KidZone @Night costs $20 per JCC member participant and $25 per community member participant. Registration is available online at http://www.jccannarbor.org/#!kz-night/ctk0. The KidZone lounge is also available for private rentals for birthday parties or other uses. Contact Ethan Krasnow, director of Youth, Camp, and Scouts, for more information on KidZone programs at ethankrasnow@jccfed.org or 971-0990. ■

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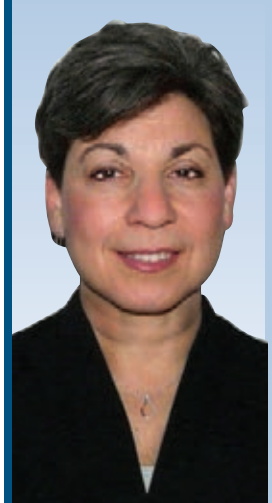

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A Taste of HDS – Super Scientists, Sunday, November 16, 2014, 3:30pm – 4:30pm
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Prospective Parent Breakfast, Sunday, January 11, 2015, 9:30am – 11:00am
RSVP to admissions@hdsaa.org, childcare available upon request

A Taste of Gan (Kindergarten), Sunday, February 1, 2015, 10:00am – 11:00am
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Jewish Federation® OF GREATER ANN ARBOR

Israeli defense minister reflects on Gaza, Abbas, and U.S.-Israel relations

By Shlomo Cesana/Israel Hayom/JNS.org

Less than two months after the conclusion of Israel's Operation Protective Edge, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon says he is "morally at peace" with the Jewish state's decisions during the 50-day summer war with Hamas.

"When I examine whether force needs to be used, I [give] myself three tests," he says. "The first test is whether I would be able to look at myself in the mirror after the bombing or the operation that I would have approved. Then, I examine the situation from a legal perspective, in terms of our law as well as international law. If everyone were to participate in the discussions surrounding the approval of an operation, they would see for themselves that we deal with very complex dilemmas, like when to shoot, like the principle of 'thou shalt not kill,' or the sanctity of life, versus the notion that 'if someone comes to kill you, rise up and kill him first.' And yes, I am at peace with the decisions we made during the course of Operation Protective Edge."

In the following interview with Israel Hayom, Ya'alon gives his thoughts on the Gaza war, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, U.S.-Israel relations, and the Arab world.

JNS: During the Gaza operation, was bombing the house Hamas commander Mohammed Deif was believed to have been in, knowing his wife and daughter were there, the right decision?

Ya'alon: "That is exactly the kind of dilemma that I described asking myself whether I would be able to look myself in the mirror after approving such an operation. That decision was the right one."

JNS: Israel decided not to topple Hamas's rule in Gaza. Can you explain why?

Ya'alon: "We did not arrive at Operation Protective Edge by surprise. The cabinet has been debating this issue since the current government was first established. There were preliminary meetings on the Gaza Strip and other fronts, in case we are attacked from Lebanon and from Syria and from even further places. That is why we held in-depth discussions. Many options were raised, among them operational plans that involved entering Gaza, conquering it, and cleansing the territory. After a cost-benefit analysis, we concluded that it was not the right move right now to attempt such an operation. We realized that there is no one that could take our place once we conquer and cleanse: not Mahmoud Abbas, not the Egyptians, not the Arab League, and not the U.N. That means that if we went in there, we would get stuck there."

JNS: Many Israelis have described a sour taste left in their mouths by the way the Gaza operation ended. Perhaps they feel that Hamas cannot be defeated?

Ya'alon: "First of all, the question is, what would constitute a victory? People long for the victory of the Six-Day War. In military terms, that was certainly a spectacular victory: the annihilation of our Arab neighbors' armies. But how long after that war did the war of attrition begin? Not very long at all. Therefore, the question of how to define a victory is interesting, and requires close examination. I assert that victory is bringing the other side to agree to a cease-fire on your terms. That is how we looked at the equation before the operation and after it. And indeed, we brought Hamas to agree to a cease-fire in a way that ran contrary to their wishes. That is undoubtedly an achievement. There is victory on the ground because of the heavy price that the Gaza Strip had to pay. I expect that they will think twice before escalating violence again in the future."

CREDIT: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Israeli Minister of Defense Moshe Ya'alon (right) speak with members of the K-9 Special Forces Unit at Camp Adam in Israel on April 23, 2013.

JNS: Is Abbas still a partner for peace?

Ya'alon: "Abbas has never said that he recognizes us as the nation state of the Jewish people. He also never said that if a compromise is reached, even one that adheres to his vision of 1967 borders, it would end the conflict and the [Palestinian] demands. He never said that he has given up on demanding refugee rights. So where can we go with him? He is a partner for discussion; a partner for managing the conflict. I am not looking for a solution, I am looking for a way to manage the conflict and the maintain relations in a way that works for our interests. We need to free ourselves of the notion that everything boils down to only one option called a [Palestinian] state. As far as I am concerned let them call it the Palestinian Empire. I don't care. It is an autonomy if it is ultimately a demilitarized territory. That is not a status quo, it is the establishment of a modus vivendi that is tolerable and serves our interests."

JNS: Are you rejecting the idea of a two-state solution?

Ya'alon: "Call it whatever you want. The political separation has already happened, and it is a good thing that it has. We are not controlling the lives of the residents of Gaza or Judea and Samaria. This separation is important. I would encourage and reinforce governability, the economy and the residents' ability to live in dignity and economic comfort. But to derive something so black and white from that? State or no state? Let's put the terminology aside."

JNS: You sparked a media firestorm when you were quoted as describing U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry as "obsessive and messianic." Did you disrespect Israel's closest ally?

Ya'alon: "Did you hear me say it? Someone said that I said it. Our relationship with the U.S. is very important. First and foremost it is important to us, and I hope it is important to the U.S. too. The defense relationship between us is excellent. My personal relationship with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is also excellent, as is the relationship between the Defense Ministry and the Pentagon and between the IDF and the U.S. military. That doesn't mean that there are no disputes, even between friends.

"We disagree on how to handle the Iranian nuclear program, on what to discuss with the Iranians: only terrorism and missiles, or centrifuges too? There have been debates on how to confront Egypt with [former President Hosni] Mubarak and with the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Americans' relations with [current Egyptian President] Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. There were disagreements and we saw things in this way or in a different way. Legitimate arguments behind closed doors. Obviously there were disagreements on the topic of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, regarding the level of its centrality in the context of the Middle East, whether it is the source of the regional instability or whether it was caused by something else.

"We have a lot of shared interests with the U.S., and that outweighs the disputes. Certainly there are shared values on which the two countries are founded. The disputes stem from differences in attitudes and worldviews. Their perspective from there is different than our perspective from here. Disputes are allowed. We have disputes amongst ourselves too—in the analysis of the situation, in the diagnosis and the prognosis."

JNS: What's your assessment of the security situation on Israel's northern front?

Ya'alon: "As far as we can see, Hezbollah is not looking to escalate the conflict at this time. The [recent] skirmishes in Har Dov were localized, with Hezbollah seeing fit to respond to actions they attributed to us. Hezbollah has 100,000 rockets and missiles, mainly from Iran and Syria. This organization is dependent on Iran, that is the problem.

"We are preparing for the possibility of escalation, from any direction, not just Lebanon. Even before Operation Protective Edge, but also now after it, anyone who tries to threaten us with rockets already understands that we will exact a very dear price. In the Dahiyeh in Beirut [during the 2006 Second Lebanon War], we destroyed 70 buildings, and in Gaza some people were saying that 7,000 buildings were completely destroyed. The conclusion is clear: At the end, they pay a heavy price for operating against us. If Hezbollah attacks, they will pay a heavy price. Lebanon will pay a heavy price. Offense is still the best defense."

JNS: Does Islamic State pose a threat to Israel?

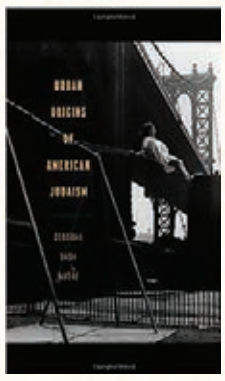
Ya'alon: "Right now, the Islamic State group is far away from us. It can only pose a threat to us if it conquers Syria from the west and in our direction. That is not the case today."

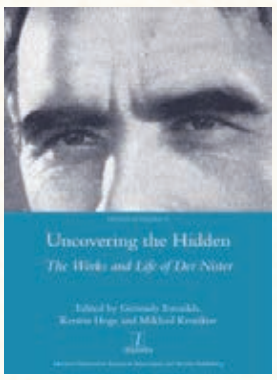
JNS: Israeli relations with Egypt are improving, but like Israel's interactions with other moderate Arab countries, they're not being made public. Why?

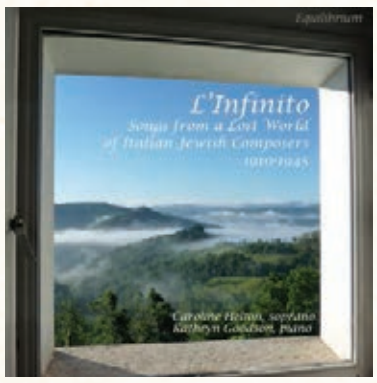
Ya'alon: "Yes, unfortunately the State of Israel is still seen as out of place in the region, so it is difficult to achieve normalization. I assert that any relationship requires first and foremost a set of interests.

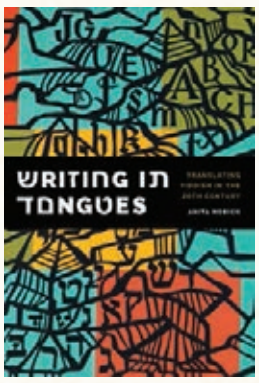
"We have peace with Jordan and with Egypt, and it has gotten stronger in recent years as a result of interests. You can see clearly, as the prime minister said in his address to the U.N. General Assembly, that the diplomatic horizon is not in Ramallah but in other Arab capitals. Without ceremonies, without agreements, and on the basis of shared interests. If we and the Sunni states share enemies like Iran, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Shiite axis, global jihad groups, and al-Qaeda, all the better." ■

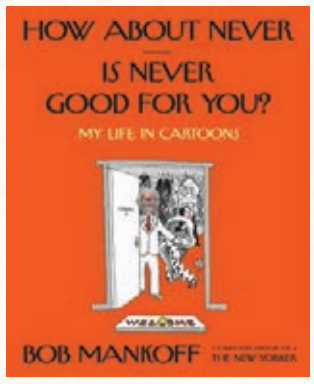
27th Annual Jewish Book Festival

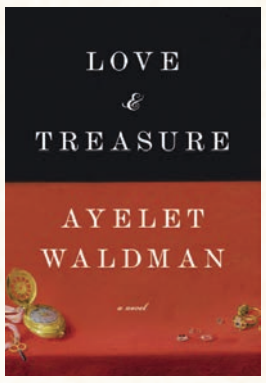


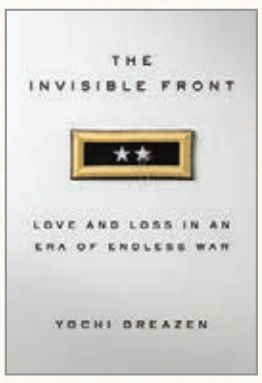


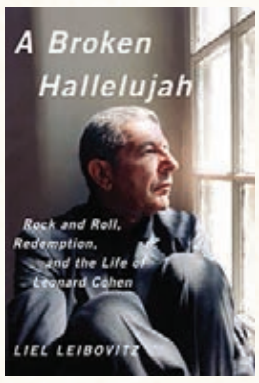


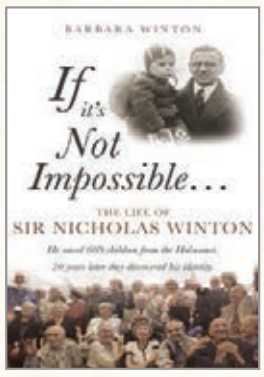


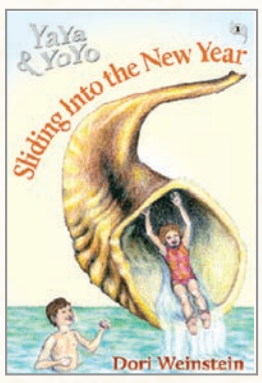












Wednesday, November 5, 2014

7:00 PM • Frankel Scholars

Deborah Dash Moore, *Urban Origins of American Judaism*

Mikhail Krutikov, *Uncovering the Hidden: The Works and Life of Der Nister and Joseph Opatoshu: A Yiddish Writer between Europe and America*

Caroline Helton, *L'Infinito: Songs from a Lost World of Italian Jewish Composers, 1910-1945*

Friday, November 7, 2014

12:00 PM Lunch • 12:30 Author Presentation

Lunch is $10 in advance, $15 at the door – reservations strongly recommended.

Anita Norich, *Writing in Tongues: Translating Yiddish in the 20th Century*

Sunday, November 9, 2014

LOCAL AUTHORS BRUNCH

10:00 AM Brunch • 10:30 AM Author Presentations

Brunch is $10 in advance, $15 at the door – reservations strongly recommended. Enjoy a light breakfast while discovering a rich tapestry of local authors.

Miriam Brysk
The Stones Weep: Teaching the Holocaust through a Survivor's Art

Judith Elkin
The Jews of Latin America

Lisbeth Fried
Ezra and the Law in History and Tradition

Robin Goldberg
Sound of Seeds

P'ninah and Karl Kanai
Kanoo Zoo

Eric Keller
Dogs I Have Known book series

Dina Shtull
Why the Rabbi Played Clarinet in the Sauna

Susan Wineberg
Historic Ann Arbor: An Architectural Guide

Saturday, November 8, 2014

OPENING NIGHT

6:30 PM • Sponsor Strombotto

Book Festival Sponsors are invited to celebrate the formal opening of the Book Festival with an opportunity to browse the onsite book store and enjoy a strolling dinner. This is an INVITATION ONLY *event.*

8:00 PM • *Author Presentation*

(This portion of the evening is FREE and open to the public.)

Robert Mankoff, *How About Never – Is Never Good for You?: My Life in Cartoons*

Sunday, November 9, 2014

FILM DAY

As part of the 27th annual Jewish Book Festival, the JCC will be hosting Academy Award winner, director Malcolm Clarke, and screening 2 of his works.

4:00 PM • *Prisoner of Paradise - FILM*

6:00 PM • **Malcolm Clarke** – *Dinner with the Director*

7:00 PM • *The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life - FILM*

PLEASE NOTE: Film screenings will be $10 each. Dinner with the Director is $15 and must be purchased in advance. Film Day Passes include both films and dinner – $25 each by advance purchase only.

Book Festival Sponsors – Organizations: Ann Arbor District Library, Fred and Ned Shure Endowment, Helen Zell Writers Program @ U of M, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, 107.1 Radio Station
Individuals: Bernie & Barbara Banet, Michael & Liz Fried, Irwin & Fran Martin, Amnon & Prue Rosenthal, Art & Mary Schuman

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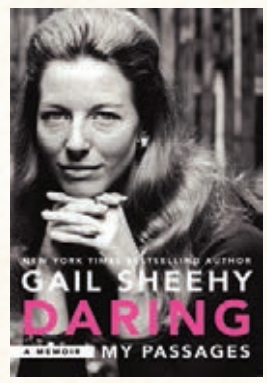
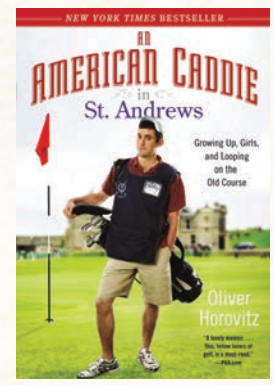
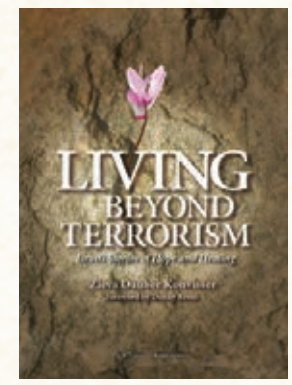
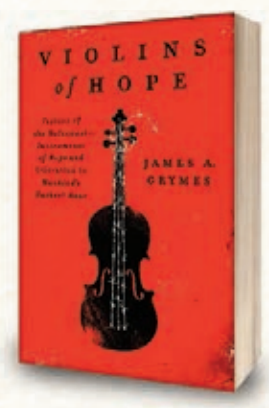
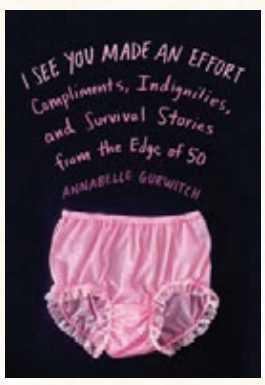
November 5 - 16, 2014

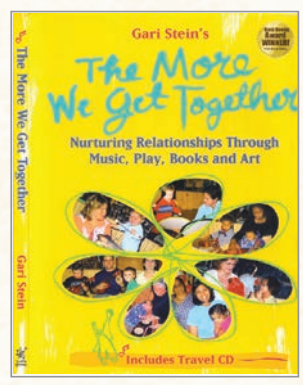


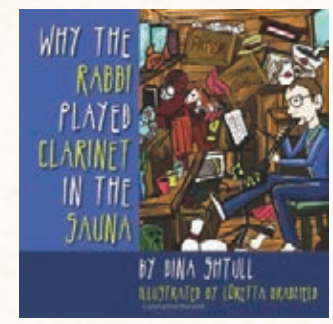












Monday, November 10, 2014

12:00 PM Lunch • 12:30 PM Author Presentation

Lunch is $10 in advance, $15 at the door – reservations strongly recommended.

Gail Sheehy, *Daring, My passages*

7:00 PM

Oliver Horovitz, *An American Caddie in St. Andrews*

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

12:00 PM Lunch • 12:30 PM Author Presentation

Lunch is $10 in advance, $15 at the door – reservations strongly recommended.

Zieva Konvisser, *Living Beyond Terrorism*

7:00 PM

This event will be held at the Downtown Library branch of the Ann Arbor District Library.

Ayelet Waldman, *Love and Treasure*

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

12:00 PM Lunch • 12:30 PM Author Presentation

Lunch is $10 in advance, $15 at the door – reservations strongly recommended.

Yochi Dreazen, *The Invisible Front*

7:00 PM

Liel Leibovitz, *A Broken Hallelujah*

Thursday, November 13, 2014

11:00 AM Author Presentation • Lunch will follow.

Lunch is $10 in advance, $15 at the door – reservations strongly recommended.

Barbara Winton, *If It's Not Impossible ... : The Life of Sir Nicholas Winton*

2:00 PM

Dori Weinstein, *Sliding Into the New Year, Shaking in the Shack*

7:00 PM

James Grymes, *Violins of Hope*

Saturday, November 15, 2014 • 7:00 PM

Zvi Gitelman, *Jewish Dilemmas in the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict*

Sunday, November 16, 2014

STORY DAY • 10:00 AM

$5 per child in advance, or $10 at the door, parents are complimentary.

Gari Stein, *Gari Stein's "Lil Folks"*

P'ninah & Karl Kanai, *Kanoo Zoo*

Dina Shtull, *Why The Rabbi Played Clarinet in the Sauna*

FINALE • 7:00 PM

This event will be held at LIVE nightclub in downtown Ann Arbor.

Annabelle Gurwitch, *I See You Made an Effort*

Book Festival Committee – Esther Ullman, *Chair,* Richard Adler, Bernie Banet, Leslie Bash, Charles Butter, Alice Fishman, Susan Flint, Ron Frisch, Elliot Gertel, Judi Gourdji, Clare Kinberg, Martha Kransdorf, Nancy Leon, Debbie Merion, Lisa Molnar, Susan Rebner, Arielle Sokol, Martin Stolzenberg, Roberta Tankanow, Elise Weisbach, Sara Jane Winkelman

For complete listing, please visit www.jccannarbor.org/#!book-festival/c1f1b

Known for chemistry, Israeli Nobel laureate also champions tech entrepreneurship

By Alina Dain Sharon/JNS.org

CHICAGO—Dan Shechtman, winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and a candidate in last June's Israeli presidential election, has long championed technological entrepreneurship and its potential to improve lives around the world.

"In our world today, in the economic situation today, there are many disenchanted people because they can't find a job," Shechtman told JNS.org in an exclusive interview ahead of his latest technological entrepreneurship lecture, which on October 20 at Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science in the Chicago area.

On October 21, Shechtman gave a second, more scientific lecture about his Nobel Prize-winning research on quasi-periodic crystals.

"People need to think with an entrepreneurial mind," he said.

Twenty-seven years ago, Shechtman founded a course on technological entrepreneurship at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in the northern Israeli city of Haifa. To date, about 10,000 engineers have taken the class. Many of the course's graduates went on to launch start-up ventures in Israel, a country that has developed a reputation for being the "start-up nation." "Somehow, the Israeli character is susceptible to thinking [of] innovation," Shechtman said.

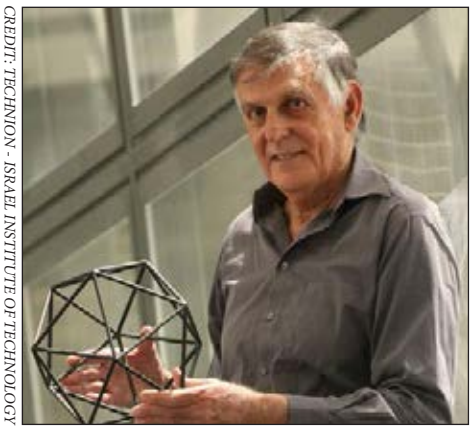
More specifically, Israelis tend to lack a fear of failure when compared with natives of other countries.

"I see that [when] I visit many countries," said Shechtman. "I say failure is OK, start again."

Entrepreneurship is particularly important because people need to think about caring for themselves, not relying on governments to provide jobs—but governments can provide "economic conditions that can foster start-ups," according to Shechtman.

For instance, a government can encourage venture capital funds or other financial entities to invest in local start-ups. Over time, the Israeli government has committed to taking on part of the investment burden by inviting foreign entities to invest locally, mainly in high-tech start-ups. That move "brought a lot of money" to Israel and "created a major, major difference," Shechtman said.

In addition, governments can open advice centers to budding entrepreneurs and business incubators that provide training, other assistance, and shared resources to emerging start-ups.



CREDIT: TECHNION - ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dan Shechtman

Private ventures can also help. In Israel, a company called RAD—founded by brothers Yehuda and Zohar Zisapel—invests in start-ups, offering workspace and funds to innovators. If the project is successful, the innovators open their own companies, becoming co-owners with RAD. This "creates a network of companies" that grows and turns profits, enabling them to make further investments and innovate more, Shechtman explained.

But when it comes to "intrapreneurship"—innovation that takes place in the context of a larger company, rather than independently—the process can be stifled. Scientists take an idea to their immediate supervisors, who in turn will take the idea to their own supervisors and present it as their team's idea, and so on and so forth. The idea goes up the chain of command, but by the time it gets to the top it is out of the hands of the best scientists, said Shechtman, who argued that the bottom rungs on chains of command need access to the top in every organization in order for entrapreneurship to thrive.

In the 1980s, the Tel Aviv-born Shechtman discovered the quasi-periodic crystal, or a quasicrystal in short. During 70 years of crystallography research up to that point, scientists believed that crystals were always composed of atoms arranged in a repeating and orderly pattern. Other non-repeating patterns were thought to exist only on man-made structures, such as in the mosaics of the Alhambra Palace in Spain, but not in nature. The atoms in the crystal Shechtman discovered, however, had an orderly pattern that did not repeat.

The discovery "created a revolution in our understanding of the structure of matter," Shechtman said. "It created a paradigm shift in crystallography," he said, so much so that eventually the International Union of Crystallography changed its definition of crystals. The practical applications for the finding involve the creation of extremely strong steel, which is especially beneficial when it comes in contact with the human body, including in electric shavers and surgical instruments.

But acceptance of Shechtman's discovery did not come easily. For many years the scientific community treated the finding with great skepticism, and often hostility. At one point, Shechtman was asked to leave a research group because his insistence that his discovery was real was thought to reflect badly on the group.

The chief opponent of the idea that a quasicrystal can exist was Lynus Pauling, who was arguably "the greatest chemist of the 20th century," Shechtman said. After Pauling died, Shechtman's idea gradually gained more acceptance, and in 2011 Shechtman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his discovery.

More recently, in addition to continuing his work with the Technion course on technological entrepreneurship, Shechtman has hosted a children's science program on Israeli state-owned television, called "Being a Scientist with Professor Dan" (as translated from Hebrew). In each episode, Shechtman conducts science experiments with a group of first-grade children.

Influencing the improvement of science education, and Israeli education in general, was one of Shechtman's chief goals when he decided to present his candidacy for Israeli president earlier this year.

Despite meeting or speaking with about 90 of the 120 Israeli Knesset members who voted in the presidential election, Shechtman only received one Knesset vote. Reuven Rivlin won the race and replaced the retiring Shimon Peres.

"I didn't want to go into politics. I wanted to become the president of Israel. I thought that the president should be disconnected from politics. This is of course not what happened," Shechtman said.

"I wanted to influence the education system in Israel… I also thought I could represent Israel very well abroad," he said, adding that "politics and science are so far apart. Science is objective. It may take longer, but the truth is accepted."

Yet Shechtman does see scientific work as quasi-ambassadorial.

"I think that what we should do [in academia] is show the positive Israel, the democracy, the good healthcare, the high education, scientific achievements… innovations [and] inventions that help the world," he said.

This is particularly important given the current wave of anti-Israel sentiment around the world, sentiment that is not based on real knowledge, Shechtman said.

"It's based on feelings and stories. … The fact that we can protect ourselves better against the shelling of cities doesn't make us bad guys," he said, referencing the summer war between Israel and Hamas.

The media is prone to exaggeration, giving viewers "the small picture" but "presenting it as the big picture," according to Shechtman.
"Why is television called a medium?" he asked rhetorically, before answering, "Because it is neither rare nor is it well-done." ■

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange: The heart of Israel's tech-focused economy

By Jim Galfund

On July 8, Israel launched Operation Protective Edge to put an end to relentless rocket attacks emanating from terror groups in Gaza. Over the ensuing weeks, over 3,500 rockets were launched at Israel. And yet, despite a complex military operation involving ground and air combat and thousands of troops, the flagship TA-25 Index rose 1.2 percent—during a concurrent slump in global equities. As an August 11 Bloomberg article observed, "Capital keeps pouring into Israel."

What's Israel's secret? After all, years after declaring independence in 1948, Israel remained an agrarian nation with an economy more akin to socialism than capitalism. In the '80s, the nation suffered from hyperinflation exceeding 400 percent.

Nevertheless, in June, Israel became only the 20th nation to join the exclusive Paris Club, comprised of influential nations that assist poor, indebted economies. The Associated Press declared Israel's admission to the Paris Club gave the country "an international boost of recognition for its economic accomplishments."

To uncover the answers, a representative from Development Corporation for Israel/Israel Bonds – the organization founded in 1951 to help strengthen Israel's economy – visited the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) during the height of Operation Protective Edge. The head of the TASE's research department, Kobi Avramov, says although the exchange dropped when the conflict was launched, a quick recovery and ongoing strong performance, even as fighting continued, clearly demonstrated "investors believed in the strength of Israel's economy."

Today's TASE, recently re-located to a high-tech, environmentally green building that opened its doors in late July, is a far cry from the exchange's humble origins, which date back to the pre-state year of 1935. That was when it first took root as the Exchange Bureau for Securities, founded by a conglomerate of banks and brokerage firms. Eighteen years later, in the aftermath of Israel's independence, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange was incorporated.

A tech-focused exchange

Avramov says 500 companies are presently listed on the TASE. Unsurprisingly, given Israel's global reputation as a technological innovator, tech companies comprise 25 percent of all listings, with 125. Real estate is a distant second with 99. The TASE's mission statement is also tech-focused, emphasizing the exchange's goal of "position(ing) Israel as an international financial center for the listing and trading of technology companies."

The effort to attract technology companies to the TASE took a quantum leap forward in 2013, with the establishment of a committee comprised of representatives of the Finance Ministry and Office of the Chief Scientist, as well as regulators tasked with making it easier for tech companies to issue IPOs and be listed.

The committee provided a series of recommendations and now, says Avramov, "companies can come to us, the procedure is easy and we also offer tax incentives."

Pro-active research

The TASE proactively solicits companies recommended by its Research Division. Specifically, says Avramov, the exchange strives is to attract small-to-medium sized technology companies, including companies located in the U.S. "Large companies," he says, "go to NASDAQ," although he notes there are some dual-listed companies on the TASE. Currently, 51 TASE companies are dual-listed on either NASDAQ or the London Stock Exchange.

Avramov says a unique feature of the TASE is its ability to provide investors with "one-stop shopping," pointing out that the exchange offers trading in convertible securities, government and corporate bonds, T-bills, exchange-traded products, options and futures, "all under one roof."

Sky-rocketing capitalization

Over the past two decades, the market capitalization of the TASE has skyrocketed. In 1994, the market capitalization of listed companies was $32.7 billion; as of July 31, the value had exceeded $218 billion. Israel's consistent economic performance, its admission to the prestigious Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and, of course, its trailblazing tech sector, have all contributed to the explosion in the value of stocks listed on the exchange.

In quantifying the reason why investors remain bullish on Israel despite periodic conflict, TASE spokesperson Idit Yaaron explains, "People who know Israel know the past shows this is what happens. They understand that in spite of this, investing in the TASE is not only an investment in Israel, it's a good investment."

"Don't stop buying Israel bonds," adds Avramov,"but also invest in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange." ■

After Arab bank verdict, don't lose sight of the human impact of terror

By Zieva Dauber Konvisser/JNS.org

In the wake of the recent historic verdict by a federal court in Brooklyn that found Jordanian Arab Bank Plc liable for knowingly providing financial services to Hamas, it's important to remember that the decision can be more than just a message to financial institutions doing business with terrorists.

This landmark ruling should also be an incredible message to the 297 plaintiffs in the case—who were either injured themselves or have family members who were killed in 24 different Hamas attacks during the Second Intifada—that we recognize their suffering and losses, as well as the travails of all other terrorism survivors, victims, and victims' family members whose claims derive from other acts of Palestinian violence not yet been addressed in a court of law.

The Brooklyn court's decision also has more than just legal and financial implications. We must focus on the human impact of terror on surviving individuals and the families—the physical and emotional scars they will carry for the rest of their lives. How can one forget the aftermath of a bomb detonated in a crowded bus or café, bullets flying through a car windshield, or a rocket crashing through an apartment building? What it is like to feel the pain of a bullet entering your body, believing your life is ending, coming home to babies who don't recognize you, or living with family members, friends, and co-workers who don't understand that you aren't the same person you were before an attack (even though you look the same)? What it is like to lose your child or parent or spouse, and to see friends cross the street to avoid talking to you because they don't know what to say to you? How does one come back to life, and maybe even find light at the end of the tunnel, after a loved one was killed by terrorism?

Over the past decade, I have interviewed terrorism survivors and their families, as well as victims' families, while compiling my new book, "Living Beyond Terrorism: Israeli Stories of Hope and Healing" (Gefen, 2014). I have heard the voices and passions of otherwise ordinary people performing ordinary activities—Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Druze riding in buses, dining in restaurants, shopping in markets, studying at college, visiting hotels, or walking on the street—who suddenly become victims of suicide bombings, shooting attacks, and rocket attacks. I have delved into their stories: how they were able to cope, or in other cases not able to cope, with experiencing acts of terrorism.

continued on page 22

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What would a partisan shift in control of the Senate mean for Jewish issues?

By Dmitriy Shapiro/JNS.org/Washington Jewish Week

As the Republican party pushes to retake the majority of the U.S. Senate in the upcoming November midterm elections, which would give it control of both houses of Congress, a partisan shift in power may significantly affect a broad range of foreign policy and domestic social issues that are prioritized by American Jews.

Midterm elections in the Senate and House of Representatives have been historically difficult for the party holding the presidency. Democrats have held the Senate since public disapproval with the administration of President George W. Bush led to a Democratic sweep of both houses in 2006. This was reversed in President Barack Obama's first midterm election cycle in 2010, when Republicans—surging from the energy of the Tea Party and criticism of the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare")—regained control of the House.

The past six years have seen increased partisanship, a government shutdown, and continuously less major legislation passing in Congress. With the status quo, the difficulties Obama has faced in his dealings with the legislative branch are unlikely to improve in his last two years as president.

Currently, the Senate includes 55 Democrats and 45 Republicans, and the GOP will need to pick up at least six seats to obtain a majority.

In Montana, Sen. John Walsh, a brigadier general in the Montana National Guard, was nominated by the state's Democratic governor earlier this year when former Sen. Max Baucus was tapped by Obama to serve as U.S. ambassador to China. But Walsh's term was short-lived, as allegations came to light that he had plagiarized a large part of a research paper required for his advancement to general officer ranks. Walsh admitted to the plagiarism and ended his campaign, creating an open seat. Montana's at-large congressman (the state's population only entitles it to one member in the House), Rep. Steve Daines (R), is running for the seat and is seen as an almost guaranteed winner in a state that Mitt Romney won by 13 percentage points in the 2012 presidential election.

In West Virginia, 77-year-old Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D) announced in January 2013 that he would not seek re-election. In the race for the open seat, Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R) leads her opponent in the latest Real Clear Politics projection. In 2012, Romney won the state, 62-36 percent.

One of the most likely Republican pickups is in South Dakota. Last year, Sen. Tim Johnson (D) announced his retirement. The state's current governor, Mike Rounds (R), easily defeated his primary opponents and has a wide lead over his Democratic opponent, businessman Rick Weiland.

Another important gain for Republicans would be the hotly contested race in Louisiana, where embattled incumbent Sen. Mary Landrieu (D) is facing two GOP challengers. Despite having his vote split by another Republican candidate in Louisiana's unusual open election, Sixth District Congressman Bill Cassidy (R) leads Landrieu in most polls.

Adding to Democrats' headaches, there are six Senate seats held by Democrats that are either open seats or occupied by a weak incumbent. These include Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire, and North Carolina. Polling in these states is too close to call, though most polls slightly lean Republican.

Although Jewish voters are unlikely to make a major difference in any of the contested races, a shift to Republican control the Senate could spell a change in foreign and domestic policies important to Jews. The Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) and the National Jewish Democratic Council (NJDC) are both helping their parties get out the vote.

"I think there's no question that support for Israel will, I think, increase dramatically with the Republican leadership in the Senate," Matthew Brooks, executive director of the RJC and the Jewish Policy Center think tank, told JNS.org. "[This is] mostly because so much of what [Senate] Majority Leader Harry Reid has been doing is bottling up critical legislation, including pressuring members of his own party to not support bi-partisan legislation for enhanced sanctions on Iran."

"I think it will be very clear that a top priority of the Republicans, if we get the Senate, would be to follow the lead of the House, which has already passed enhanced sanctions, and give the opportunity for Sen. [Mark] Kirk (R-Ill.) and [Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert] Menendez (D-N.J.) to get their critical legislation through the Senate and to the president," Brooks added.

Brooks also pointed to the August battle in the Senate to pass emergency funding for Israel to replenish the Iron Dome missile defense system's supply of interceptor rockets. Though the funding passed unanimously minutes before the Senate adjourned for its August recess, Democrats included the Iron Dome assistance in a broader emergency appropriations bill that included funds for fighting fires in Oregon as well as funding requested by Obama to handle the influx of illegal immigrants from Central America. At the time, Republicans called for a separate bill for Iron Dome funding.

"Those kind of shenanigans, at a time when Israel was in the middle of a critical battle in which they needed to have strong support from America, [prove that] Majority Leader Reid would rather have played domestic politics than help Israel," said Brooks. "In the end we got there, but that kind of stuff, I think, is not going to happen when it's [the job of] Majority Leader [Mitch] McConnell (R-Ky.), who was one of the strong voices pushing Harry Reid to free up the $250 million emergency appropriation [for the Iron Dome]."

Rabbi Jack Moline, executive director of the NJDC, does not believe Republicans will take control of the Senate, citing races in states such as Georgia, where Democrats are relying on an aggressive get-out-the-vote effort among a growing demographic of young and non-white voters to deliver Democratic nominee Michelle Nunn with retiring Sen. Saxby Chambliss's (R) seat.

"I think bicameral Republican [majorities] in Congress will be problematic for the social issues that are of concern to 70 percent of the Jewish community," Moline told JNS.org. "I think it's a pretty fair bet that you will see attempts to stymie meaningful immigration reform, you'll see attempts to further restrict the ability for women to control their own healthcare. I think you will find problematic approaches to religion in government from a Jewish perspective. I think that initiatives to create equal pay for equal work and to raise the minimum wage would be frustrated by a philosophy by an economy that is more identified with the Republicans than the Democrats."

Moline noted that the Pew Research Center's 2013 survey of U.S. Jews showed that 70 percent of respondents still identify or lean Democrat, compared to only 22 percent identifying or learning Republican.

Unlike Brooks, Moline does not see a shift in control of the Senate changing American foreign policy in the Middle East, including with regards to Iran's nuclear capabilities.

"I think there will probably be some tension between the president and the Senate over his pursuit of certain foreign policy objectives, but I don't think that's any different from the way things are now," he said.

Brooks, meanwhile, said Republican legislators have "demonstrated throughout the president's term a willingness to work with the president."

"The question is how much the White House is going to want to engage in partnership and bipartisan work with a Republican House and Senate," he said. "That remains to be seen. It would behoove the president, at a point where his political standing is at an all-time low for his presidency… to work with the Republicans to get important things done for the country." ■

Analysis

Ex-presidents and the Jews: Carter vs. Hoover

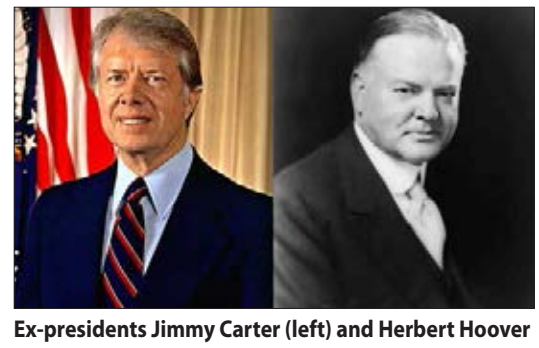
By Rafael Medoff/JNS.org

Ex-presidents seldom take an interest in Jewish affairs, with two notable exceptions. One is Jimmy Carter, who has repeatedly clashed with the Jewish community. Another is Herbert Hoover, an unlikely ally of the Jews who passed away 50 years ago this week (Oct. 20, 1964).

Most ex-presidents have gone quietly into the sunset, and some have taken issue with the few who have chosen to speak out on current affairs. George W. Bush, for example, last week had some strong words in reaction to fellow ex-president Carter's public criticism of President Barack Obama's Mideast policies. "To have a former president bloviating and second-guessing is, I don't think, good for the presidency or the country," Bush said.

Much of Carter's post-presidential activity has revolved around Israel. He has repeatedly taken controversial stands, such as comparing Israeli policies to apartheid, urging the U.S. to withhold aid from Israel to force it to change its positions, and praising Hamas as "a legitimate political actor."

Douglas Brinkley's 1998 book, "The Unfinished Presidency: Jimmy Carter's Journey Beyond the White House," furnished some embarrassing details about Carter's relationship with the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. According to Brinkley, Carter "developed a fondness for Arafat" based on his belief "that they were both ordained to be peacemakers by God." The former president went so far as to personally draft a speech for Arafat that he hoped would "help him to overcome the deficit understanding" for him in the West.



Ex-presidents Jimmy Carter (left) and Herbert Hoover

By contrast, Hoover, as ex-president, repeatedly took positions favorable to the Jewish community—even when it was not in his political interest to do so.

In early 1933, Jewish leaders asked president-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt to join Hoover, the outgoing president, in a joint statement deploring the mistreatment of Jews in Nazi Germany. Hoover agreed to do so; Roosevelt declined. Before leaving office, Hoover instructed the U.S. ambassador in Germany, Frederic Sackett, "to exert every influence of our government" on the Hitler regime to halt the persecutions. But FDR soon replaced Sackett with William Dodd, and instructed Dodd that while he could "unofficially" take issue with Nazi Germany's anti-Semitism, he was not to issue any formal protests on the subject, since it was "not a [U.S.] governmental affair."

Hoover publicly endorsed the 1939 Wagner-Rogers bill to permit 20,000 German Jewish children to enter the U.S. outside the quota system. He also assisted the sponsors of the bill behind the scenes, by pressuring wavering members of the House Immigration Committee to support the measure. The endorsement of the only living former president gave the bill a significant boost.

He likely would have been able to accomplish more for Wagner-Rogers if not for some unfortunate partisan sniping. James G. McDonald, chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, believed the ex-president could rally important support for the effort. He suggested "that Mr. Herbert Hoover might assume leadership in raising funds and in administering the work of placing

continued on page 22

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November 2014 Events

November 5, 4 pm
Middle East Dialogues
The Gaza War: A Different Approach to Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict
Annenberg Auditorium, Ford School of Public Policy, Weill Hall, 735 S. State St.

November 7, 9 am-2:45 pm
Frankel Institute Symposium
Russian Imperial Legacies
Kelsey Museum, Newberry Building 434 S. State St., Room 125

November 13, 12:15 pm
Claude Stuczynski,
Frankel Institute Fellow
Ex-Converso Jewish Sephardi Echoes of Iberian Imperialism
202 S. Thayer St., Room 2022

November 18, 5 pm
Yiddish Film Series
Uncle Moses
202 S. Thayer St., Room 2022

November 5, 7-8:30 pm
Frankel Scholars Night
JCC of Ann Arbor, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr.

November 10
Malcolm Clarke, filmmaker
Films: *Prisoner of Paradise* (5 pm) and *The Lady in Number 6* (8 pm)
Keene Theater, East Quad, 701 E. University Ave.

November 16, 10 am
Frankel Scholars Forum
JCC of Metro Detroit 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield

November 20, 4 pm
Maren Niehoff,
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
An Intellectual Biography of Philo of Alexandria
Angell Hall, 505 S. State St., Room 2175

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My Beloved World: a study in positive thinking

Rachel Urist, staff writer

Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, has written an inspiring memoir. It is an immigrant story that will resonate with many in this polyglot melting pot. She is the daughter of Puerto Ricans whose hardscrabble life in the crowded housing projects of the Bronx, in New York City, mirrors the struggles of my immigrant grandparents in Brooklyn. Sotomayor was sent to Catholic schools. I was sent to Yeshiva. Sotomayor's family spoke Spanish at home. My parents and grandparents spoke Yiddish. She, like me, was raised female, with all attendant privileges and hindrances.

Her father, a whiz with numbers, had little education, became discouraged, fell into alcoholism, and died when Sonia was nine. Her mother, Celina, worked long hours for little pay as a nurse's aide. While Sonia and her brother were still school-age, their mother went back to school to earn her RN. Mother and children did their homework together. With Sonia's encouragement, Celina succeeded. For her, education was key. She saved every penny to keep her children in private school. Her one splurge was an *Encyclopedia Britannica*, which her children swallowed whole. Sonia became a lawyer, then a judge, then a Supreme Court justice. Her brother became a physician.

Sonia Sotomayor's narrative in *My Beloved World* is not a litany of her achievements. It is an engaging survey of her journey. She never loses sight of the good fortune she had in overcoming the hurdles. Sometimes she credits the spirit of her late *abuelita*, her grandmother, for protecting her through dangerous passages. Her *abuelita*, Mercedes Sotomayor, was a key figure in her early childhood. Her apartment, a place of unconditional love, was a refuge from tension.

It was while she was in grade school that Sonia Sotomayor resolved to become a lawyer. Propelled by injustices suffered by fellow Nuyoricans, she became a champion for the disadvantaged all around her. She was determined to make this world a better place. Her outlook suggests an innate sense of *tikkun olam*. Her mother, a study in community outreach, was a fine role model, having served as personal health care worker to family, friends and neighbors.

Early on, Sonia recognized that the practice of law required argumentative skills, so she joined her school's forensics team, where she shone. She sought opportunities to speak in public, even if it was to recite a poem in church. Since her mother was the family's primary breadwinner even before being widowed, Sonia learned that survival depends on a fierce work ethic. She was also gifted and proved her mettle early. She was class valedictorian at both her grammar school and high school graduations.

She was accepted to a several Ivy League colleges. She chose Princeton. Among the colleges she visited, this was where she felt most comfortable, though she reports feeling "like an alien" there, too. She became a leader on campus even though she was plagued by insecurities, not to mention the diabetes she'd managed since childhood. She was admitted to Princeton with the help of affirmative action and a full scholarship and never forgot the hurdles she overcame. As an undergraduate, she successfully advocated for the hiring of more Hispanic faculty and volunteered as a translator for Spanish-speaking patients at a local hospital. As a senior, she received both the Pyne Prize (the top award for undergraduates), and the designation summa cum laude, which she needed to look up before accepting congratulations.

Sonia Sotomayor

From Princeton, she went to Yale Law School, where she co-chaired a group for Latin, Asian, and Native American students; participated in mock trials (she was a semi-finalist in the Barristers Union mock trial competition); and was as an editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. A note she wrote on the effect of possible Puerto Rican statehood on the island's mineral and ocean rights was published before she graduated.

We owe Justice Sotomayor deep thanks for laying bare her soul in a manner that enhances her dignity and helps us find higher ground.

My Beloved World is replete with colorful anecdotes. Among them is the experience of playing prosecutor during a mock trial, while a law student at Yale. One of the jurors kept shaking his head in disapproval. Later, she asked him why. He declined to answer. She pressed. He hedged. Finally he said: "Look, nothing personal. I just don't like brassy Jewish women." His words took her by surprise. She writes: "…my mind raced through the things I could possibly say to this man." Fortunately, a response came quickly. "You're right," she said. "I can't do anything about that." And she walked away.

She recounts the story of a crumpled piece of paper retrieved by her friend from the trash bin in Sotomayor's room at Princeton. It was an invitation to join Phi Betta Kappa. Never having heard of that society, Sotomayor tossed it, assuming it was just another club requiring membership dues that she could ill afford. After the friend explained the honor, Sotomayor reconsidered. This friend was one of many who took the future judge under her wing, showed her the ropes, and helped her find her way through the Scylla and Charybdis hidden in the waves of ivy-covered walls.

In navigating her way, she accepted help from friends. Otherwise, she was remarkably self-sufficient. This characteristic asserted itself at age eight, a year after being diagnosed with diabetes. Her mother found her atop a chair, lighting the stove to boil her syringe. Her parents had been fighting about many things, and the question of who should give the child her daily injections became part of the fray. Sonia decided she would administer her own insulin injections. When her father died a year later, her mother fell into a protracted depression. Sonia called an end to her mother's withdrawal by confronting her and demanding that she stop. Her mother listened. Life changed radically.

Sonia married her high school sweetheart. But when the marriage could no longer be sustained, strained as it was by professional demands that pulled each in opposite directions, she and her husband agreed to divorce. The parting was painful, but they remain respectful, supportive, and proud of each other's achievements.

Sotomayor has always held herself accountable for her own life. She neither credits nor blames anyone else for her difficulties, as well she needn't, since she achieved her every professional goal.

The professional peregrinations in the early stages of her career were deliberate. She was determined to familiarize herself with various areas of law. She treasures her stint with a boutique Manhattan law firm, which hired her despite recognizing that she was overqualified and would soon move on. In fact, one of her mentors at the firm, her "rabbi," David Botwinik, predicted that she would soon be a federal judge and, in all likelihood, a Supreme Court Justice. That was in 1988, seven years before a group of senators submitted her name to George W. Bush as a prospective candidate for the bench, and 11 years before she was nominated by President Obama.

As Sotomayor rose through the ranks, she observed, with a keen eye, the workings around her. She has noteworthy words for women pondering their places on the continuum of female roles in this changing society. She marvels at the insensibility of male judges who once routinely addressed female lawyers in the courtroom as "honey." She reports a court security officer calling a woman judge "sweetie" in her own courtroom. She watches her female friends grapple with the problem of balancing the personal and professional. She writes:

> It is interesting to me how, even after all the strides of the women's movement, the question of whether we can "have it all" remains such a controversy in the media, as if the ideal can be achieved. Most women of my generation who entered professional life did not forgo motherhood, and many did succeed at both. But they paid a price, one still paid by most women who work outside the home (and men too, I believe, if they parent wholeheartedly): a life of perpetual internal compromise that leaves you feeling torn, neglectful by turns of one or the other. …as for the possibility of "having it all," career and family, with no sacrifice to either, that is a myth we would do well to abandon, together with the pernicious notion that a woman who chooses one or the other is somehow deficient. To say that a stay-at-home mom has betrayed her potential is no less absurd than to suggest that a woman who puts career first is somehow less a woman.

Throughout her years on the professional treadmill, Sonia Sotomayor reflected on the how and why of her success. Would she have reached the heights had she not been diagnosed with diabetes? (It was a dire prognosis then, and she thought it sentenced her to a short life. She had no time to waste.) Had her parents not fought, had their parental attentions been less uncertain, would she have managed to achieve such self-sufficiency at such an early age? Had she not had the unconditional love of her grandmother, her *abuelita*, could she have mustered the self-confidence required to pursue her goals?

These are the questions she asked herself as she reached milestone after milestone. She has arrived at a philosophical juncture that is marked, as it seems, by a Zen-like tranquility. It cannot be mistaken for complacency. She remains driven, hardworking, inexhaustible in her efforts to see justice served and inequities righted. She is decisive both professionally and personally. She embraces life, as is evident in the title of her book, *My Beloved World*.

Sonia Sotomayor is a role model not just for Latinos, or Hispanics or Nuyoricans, or women, or female lawyers, but for all. No one reaches the summit without a struggle. Her maneuvers through risky terrain are a lesson for anyone whose journey requires grit. Since every life is a journey, and since every journey requires grit, we owe Justice Sotomayor deep thanks for laying bare her soul in a manner that enhances her dignity and helps us find higher ground. She shows us humanity at its best. ■

Local author Ken Wachsberger

Kirsten Shafer, staff writer

Nervous? You bet I was.

On a blustery, rainy autumn afternoon, I made my way to a local cafe to spend time getting to know Ken Wachsberger. It was my duty to put together a colorful profile of a man and his life. No big deal, right? Wrong. I'm skilled as an editor, and I was about to interview a writer.... gulp.

I found Ken sitting at a back corner table with his laptop, paper and pen, and a beverage, looking like a regular fixture in the joint. I was greeted with a warm smile and a firm, welcoming handshake.

Prior to meeting Ken, I read his latest book, *Your Partner Has Breast Cancer: 21 Ways to Keep Sane as a Support Person on Your Journey from Victim to Survivor*, so I had a glimpse of his life, his family, and his writing style. What I was about to learn was how gregarious and passionate Ken is.

Assuming Ken hadn't always been a writer, I asked what else he had done over the years. He began with a story of a job he landed shortly after grad school. He was nearly 30 years old and decided to try his hand at carpentry. His job post was on a construction site in Austin, Texas, and on the first day he was put to work on the frame of a multi-level structure.

Emily and Ken Wachsberger

"I was walking on narrow wood beams one story above ground, trying to keep steady, with no safety harness. I was carrying a heavy nail gun with a long, heavy-duty extension cord dragging behind me that wrapped around the vertical boards so I had to keep backtracking to untangle the cord. It was frightening and exhausting. At lunchtime, the other workers pulled out cans of beer and started partying. I lay down under a tree to rest. When lunch ended, I couldn't get up. I couldn't move. That was my half-day career as a carpenter."

Ken has lived in various places across the country and has dabbled in a few professions. He's been an auto mechanic, played his hand in real estate, and was a gillnetter and lobster fisherman off the coast of Maine. He even bluffed his way into a catering job in his mid-30s that turned into a full-time catering business with his wife Emily, which lasted over 20 years in several cities.

"I was talking one day with a friend, who told me she was hosting a health food and spring fest for 150 people that included a catered lunch. When I asked who was catering the event, she looked stunned. They hadn't figured that out yet. I said Emily and I could do it. She said, 'Can you do lacto-ova?' I said, 'Sure, no problem.' We set up a meeting. That night I said to Emily, 'What's lacto-ova?' Fortunately she knew." They got the job, it was a huge success, and they went on to become the go-to vegetarian caterers for several years.

It's obvious after hearing that tale that Emily and Ken work well together. The day after Emily met Ken in 1977, he invited her home to meet his family and share the Passover seder with them, and they've been together ever since. Ken speaks proudly of their son, David, who is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and today a chef, and his daughter, Carrie, who is getting her doctorate in musical arts at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and training to be an opera singer.

We talked about Ken's book and Emily's battle with breast cancer. Ken was grateful to be able to write during that challenging time in their lives. Journaling while she was in recovery, writing updates to family and close friends, was therapeutic for Ken. What came out of that experience was an extraordinary resource for support people of cancer patients, who Ken calls "the silent victims."

I found Ken's book to be gentle, approachable, compassionate, and even funny at times. While reading it, I felt as if I was sitting right there with Ken having a drink and a casual conversation. Not many people have the gift of writing, especially in that way. So I asked what inspired him to become a writer, and how he does it so well.

With a wide grin, Ken confessed that while he was an undergrad he got involved with protests after the Kent State murders of May 1970 during the Vietnam War—so involved, that he landed himself in jail and solitary confinement. Feeling charged and compelled to speak about injustice and the unsettling times, he began organizing against the war and writing for one of the many anti-war "underground" newspapers around the country. From there he was asked to write for other publications. Years later, he was still writing about the underground press. Today he is a long-time member of the National Writers Union, a veteran organizer, and is known internationally as an expert on the topic of the underground press.

Meanwhile, he found his calling helping others to write and he's been writing and coaching spiritedly ever since. He started his own publishing company, Azenphony Press, under which he has published numerous books. Ken also taught composition courses for nearly a quarter of century at Eastern Michigan University. And, he continues to connect with aspiring writers, mentoring them through the art of the written word.

Shortly before our time was up, I bluntly asked Ken how old he was. He snickered and replied, "I recently turned 65. Did you know beginning at age 60 a bus ride in Ann Arbor is half price—75 cents? But when you turn 65 you can ride for free. The day I turned 65, Emily and I rode the bus together. She still had to pay 75 cents, but I was FREE! Emily took a picture of me holding my Senior Gold card standing next to the bus driver. If you've lived a full life, getting older is an exciting adventure."

I think Ken has a great attitude and perspective on aging. If you're not convinced, then you may want to read his July 19 blog entry, "On Turning 65" (kenwachsberger.wordpress.com) and get on the bandwagon.

My final question to Ken: Where do you see yourself in 10 years? With a hearty chuckle, he replied, "Still sitting in this cafe writing... and pissing off right wingers!" ■

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Violinist Gil Shaham returns to Ann Arbor with San Francisco Symphony

San Slomovits, staff writer

The University Musical Society is bringing the San Francisco Symphony back to Ann Arbor on Thursday and Friday, November 13 and 14. This visit is special for a number of reasons; Michael Tilson Thomas, the symphony's long-time musical director is celebrating his 70th birthday; Thursday night's concert will feature Mahler's massive Symphony No. 7, a work that has never before been performed at a UMS concert; and the famed violinist, Gil Shaham returns to Ann Arbor for the first time in more than 15 years to perform Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto with the SF Symphony on the Friday night concert.

I had a chance to talk briefly with Shaham about the concerto and about his long-standing musical collaboration with the SF Symphony and with Michael Tilson Thomas.

WJN: You first came to Ann Arbor 20 years ago, in 1994, when you soloed here with the Moscow Philharmonic. You came the following year and played a concert with your sister, Orli, the wonderful pianist, and then you came back in 1998 and soloed with the Russian National Orchestra. So permit me to start with a joke. You haven't been back since then. Are you mad at us?

Shaham: (Laughter) No, no, no. I'm sorry that I haven't been back in Ann Arbor. I know so many people at the School of Music. It's such an incredible place for music. It's a real treasure you know; it's kind of a musical Mecca for people like me.

WJN: You're coming this time with the San Francisco Symphony. You've played with them many times before. How did that relationship start?

Shaham: I remember my very first concert with the San Francisco Symphony was, I want to say in 1990. It was one of my first concerts with a major orchestra. It was with Herbert Blomstedt and we played the Mendelssohn concerto at that time. I remember just being so honored to be there. It was always my dream to be able to make music, to be able to play with the pros, you know? (Laughter) To play a concerto with the San Francisco Symphony would be the equivalent to playing baseball with the San Francisco Giants.

WJN: You knew you'd made it to the big leagues!

Shaham: I remember being very nervous. Over the years I feel so lucky to have made many friends in the orchestra. I can't believe they still ask me. I'll try to keep up with them.

WJN: You've also worked frequently over the years with the current music director of the San Francisco Symphony, Michael Tilson Thomas.

Gil Shanon

Shaham: With Michael Tilson Thomas, I think our relationship goes back even further. I find him to be one of the most inspiring musicians I've ever worked with. He's a brilliant man. I have been very lucky to have this long friendship with him. The first time I played with Michael was maybe my very first big break. I was a student in high school and Itzhak Perlman had cancelled some concerts in London. Michael was the music director of the London Symphony Orchestra at the time and they were desperate to find a replacement. I can only imagine that the first hundred violinists they called couldn't make it, and then they called me. And that's how I met Maestro Tilson Thomas. I am very much looking forward to making music with all my favorite musicians, playing Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto, which is one of my favorite pieces.

WJN: What are the particular joys, and challenges, of that concerto for you?

Shaham: This is one piece that the older I grow, the more and more I love it. The mastery of the writing of this composer, it's amazing. It's amazing. He was "in the zone," getting back to a baseball analogy. For me, over the years, I see the piece to be a bit darker than I did back when I first started playing it. Maybe he was responding to some of the times, it was in the middle of the 1930s, between the two great wars, or maybe to what was happening in Russia at the time.

There's a lot of folk music incorporated. There are balalaika effects in the orchestra, the violins imitate the Ukrainian accordion-like instrument, the bayan, and in the last movement you have castanets, which was probably meant to have an effect at the premiere. The premiere was in Spain. It's one of the great, great masterpieces.

WJN: I read that the French violinist who premiered the concerto, Robert Soetens was still alive and playing in public in the 1980s and even into the early 1990s. Did you by any chance get to meet him, or hear him play?

Shaham: I am so sorry that I never did get to meet him. I never met him and I never heard him. We are so lucky that he inspired Prokofiev to write this piece. There is a story that Prokofiev was thinking of writing a third violin concerto that Jascha Heifetz had commissioned, or had spoken to him about. But he fell ill and never was able to write the third one. So we're lucky, we're very lucky to have these two.

WJN: What's coming up in your career that you are particularly excited about, or looking forward to?

Shaham: I'm thrilled to be on this tour with the San Francisco Symphony. It's part of a long project that has been going across several seasons, exploring violin concertos from the 1930s.

Some of the other things that are exciting for me this season are that we'll release a recording of the solo sonatas and partitas of Bach. And I'll be playing those in concerts as well. That's been more than a decade-long project for me. Those are pieces that as a kid I learned and always played, but I didn't really start performing them until about ten years ago when I thought, 'if I don't start playing them now I'll never feel more confident. They'll never improve if I don't start performing them.' So I'm very much looking forward to that. You know, I discovered what many other musicians have said before me, which is that there is no greater joy than to play Bach.

Then, in December, I'll be premiering a new violin concerto by David Bruce called Fragile Light. That will be with the San Diego Symphony. And I'm hoping in the not too distant future to release recordings of two Ann Arbor composers.

WJN: Who are they?

Shaham: One is a solo suite by Bill Bolcom,

WJN: Of course.

Shaham: Which I am so lucky that he wrote for me. It is a great masterpiece, nine movements for solo violin, somewhat inspired by the solo Bachs. The other one is a violin concerto by Bright Sheng.

WJN: Yes!

Shaham: A very beautiful piece called "Let Fly." I'm hoping to record both of those pieces and release them, but it probably won't be next year, perhaps the year after.

WJN: Ann Arborites, especially, will be happy to know about these and we'll look forward to your recordings.

Shaham: They're wonderful people. I've known Bill and Joan (Bill Bolcom and his wife Joan Morris) for a long time. So inspiring, you know, they are inspiring people.

WJN: Yes, they really are! ■

Arab Bank, continued from page 17

I was privileged to hear, learn, and tell the stories of 16 of the plaintiffs from the recent Arab bank case. They were victims of some of the worst Palestinian terror attacks in the history of Israel, including the Sbarro pizzeria bombing in Jerusalem, the Park Hotel Passover Massacre in Netanya, the Mike's Place bombing in Tel Aviv, and the Hebrew University cafeteria bombing. While these attacks have been etched into the memory of most Israelis and many Americans, the experiences of the plaintiffs in this case are more than a memory—they are the events that shaped the rest of their lives. For the plaintiffs, the verdict was likely a significant step in their emotional journey of healing and trying to make their voices heard. With the court's decision, it's clear they have been heard.

As we approach the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, let's remember those who have fallen due to acts of terror and pray for those who have survived, and for their extended families. Let them hear our voices and understand that we have not forgotten them, and that we will continue to remember and take action. Let's pray that those still waiting for their voices to be heard are indeed heard, and let's hope and pray those who have perpetrated, abetted, and defended terrorism will take this court decision seriously and finally say, "I'm sorry." ■

Dr. Zieva Dauber Konvisser is a fellow of the Institute for Social Innovation at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif. Her new book, "Living Beyond Terrorism: Israeli Stories of Hope and Healing," looks at how 48 survivors of terrorism move forward from terrorism to hope and optimism, and from grief to meaning and healing.

Ex-presidents, continued from page 18

the children in suitable homes." But Roosevelt administration officials blocked the proposal.

It is worth noting that Hoover's stance on the bill ran counter to his own political interests, since he hoped to win the GOP presidential nomination in 1940, and most Republicans (like most Democrats) opposed increased immigration. Moreover, since Roosevelt was enormously popular in the Jewish community (he won about 90 percent of the Jewish vote in the previous election), Hoover had little reason to think that supporting Wagner-Rogers was going to win Jewish votes.

During the Holocaust years, Hoover associated himself with the activist Bergson Group, which lobbied for U.S. action to rescue Jewish refugees. He served on the Sponsoring Committee of Bergson's protest pageant, "We Will Never Die." The former president was also honorary chairman of Bergson's July 1943 Emergency Conference to Save the Jewish People of Europe, and addressed the event via live radio hook-up.

Additionally, Hoover played a significant role in the decision to include a plank in the 1944 Republican Party platform urging the rescue of Europe's Jews and supporting Jewish statehood in the British mandate of Palestine. It was the first time in American history that either major political party took such stands, and it forced the Democrats to adopt similar language at their convention later that year. As a result, support for Zionism and Israel became a permanent part of both parties' platforms and a cornerstone of American political culture—and has remained so, even when challenged in recent years by another ex-president. ■

Dr. Rafael Medoff is director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, (www.WymanInstitute.org

Appreciating the beauty and the bounty at Thanksgiving

Mary Bilyeu, staff writer

After celebrating holidays in both September and October, we move on, in November, to yet another one: Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving isn't Jewish, like last month's observance of Sukkot. It's not Christian, like next month's festivities at Christmas. It's not secular, either. Thanksgiving is universal.

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County hosts a lovely and meaningful celebration of the holiday each year, with a wide variety of religions represented as houses of worship in the area gather to share poems and songs and readings from their traditions. *(This year's 20th anniversary Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration will be held November 23. See article on page 1.)* Each religion expresses thanks in its own way, with its individual beauty.

Because appreciation for blessings is, of course, not exclusive to any one faith. And faith is not even necessary for the expression of gratitude.

During the High Holidays, we engaged in introspection, assessing our past year and considering the upcoming one. We looked inward, in hopes of self-improvement. We reflected upon our frailty, our fragility, our failings, but also upon successes we hope to nurture and strengthen.

At Thanksgiving, we look outward. Many of us sit with loved ones at services and around a table heavily laden with food, and we offer thanks for the many wonderful things in our lives. We thank God, our Higher Power, Mother Nature, or whom-/whatever feels right to us for beauty, for bounty, and for other blessings.

We have spent weeks admiring the gorgeous Northern fall, with the reds and gold and burnished oranges of the leaves, even as we have also muttered about those last stragglers that always seem to fall from the trees just as we've finished raking our yards. The abundance of the late summer harvest from gardens and farms has been dried, frozen, canned, and, especially, enjoyed while still fresh and at its peak, with a new season's delicious offerings - cider, pumpkins, squash, and such cold weather comforts as casseroles and soups - now being served and appreciated.

Health is sometimes taken for granted, a constant, although everything else falls by the wayside without it. When you're not feeling well - whether with a simple (but miserable) cold, or while being treated for a significant illness or while recovering from a procedure - going to work, inviting friends over for coffee, schlepping kids to and from soccer practice ... it's all either difficult or even impossible. It's often only when we lose it, or as we sit at the Thanksgiving dinner table reviewing our good fortune, that we seem to fully acknowledge how essential and wonderful good health is.

Having a home to, literally, come home to is another item on our gratitude list. So many people do not have this luxury, or their housing is tenuous at best. Whatever state of disrepair or mess our homes may be in, as we apologize for not having vacuumed or for the clutter on the dining room table — both of these only being taken care of, sometimes, when we have company coming, as for our holiday celebration - it's still home sweet home.

So often, we get caught up in the rhythms and stresses of our days, and we lose sight of the abundance of blessings we receive, the very many things that are good in our lives. But Thanksgiving provides us with an opportunity to refocus, to enumerate the gifts we take for granted even in a year that may have also, sadly, brought us significant sorrow or loss.

There are so many small things every single day, from a good parking spot to a son or daughter having earned an "A" on a math test, from a co-worker bringing doughnuts into the office to a happy wag of our dog's tail when it's time to go for a walk. Is it silly to be grateful for such simple and innocuous things? Or is this really how we should live our lives, thankful for countless examples of goodness and beneficence, however seemingly insignificant?

Even after our feast — the turkey, the stuffing, the cranberry sauce (whether homemade or with the requisite and familiar ridges from a can), the potatoes, the yams, the rolls, and the pies — and some families' tradition of having each person at the table offer a gratitude list, we then go out to the kitchen and roll our eyes. We have almost immediately forgotten all those blessings we were thankful for as we face a mountain of pots and pans, plates and forks, coffee cups and wine glasses.

But at that moment, remember this old saying:

Be thankful for dirty dishes — It means you had food. ■

Roasted winter squash and pearl barley salad with pumpkin seeds and dried cranberries

"Roasted squash is one of our favorite ingredients," write the authors of *The Ginger & White Cookbook*.

1 1 1/2 pound butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1-1/2-inch cubes
4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
salt and pepper
2 tablespoons honey
1 1/2 cups pearl barley
1/2 cup English Mustard Dressing (see below)
1 cup dried cranberries
3 1/2 ounces baby spinach
3 1/2 ounces arugula leaves
bunch of mint, roughly chopped
1/3 cup pumpkin seeds

Preheat the oven to 425F.

Put the squash into a roasting pan, sprinkle with the olive oil, cinnamon, red pepper flakes, and seasoning, then toss well. Roast for 15 minutes, then turn, drizzle with the honey, and roast for an additional 10 minutes, until sweet, caramelized, and really tender, yet still holding its shape.

Meanwhile, put the pearl barley into a saucepan, cover with cold water, and bring to a boil. Simmer for about 35 minutes, until tender but with a little bite. Drain, allow to cool, then toss in 4 tablespoons of the dressing.

Spread the pearl barley in the bottom of a large, shallow serving dish. Cover with the roasted squash, then the cranberries. Combine all the leaves and arrange them over the top. Finally, sprinkle with the pumpkin seeds and drizzle with the remaining dressing.

Yield: 4 servings.

English mustard dressing

1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon English mustard powder
5 tablespoons white wine vinegar
2/3 cup sunflower oil
1/2 cup cold-pressed canola oil

Combine the salt and mustards in a bowl. Add the vinegar and slowly trickle in the oils, whisking until emulsified. Alternatively, put all the ingredients in a screw-top jar and shake thoroughly rather than whisk.

Makes 1-1/3 cups.

Source: The Ginger & White Cookbook *by Tonia George, Emma Scott, and Nicholas Scott*

Pear and honey cake

Amy Thielen brushes this cake "with the reduced pear cooking liquid to give it some sheen and to give the edges an addictive caramel chewiness, but really, this cake needs no accompaniment - except maybe a shimmering cup of black coffee."

unsalted butter, melted, for the pan
4 firm-ripe pears, such as yellow or red Anjou
9 ounces (2 sticks plus 2 tablespoons) unsalted butter, at room temperature
1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons light honey
2 tablespoons Kirsch, rum, or cider
2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for the pan
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
2-1/3 cups sugar
6 large eggs
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Preheat the oven to 400°. Prepare a 10-cup Bundt pan by brushing it with melted butter; let it set, then re-brush it. Then sift a little flour over it, tilting the pan, and knocking out the excess flour.

Peel, quarter, and core the pears. Heat a large skillet over high heat, and add 2 tablespoons of the butter. When it melts, add the pears. Cook, stirring once or twice, until browned in spots, about 3 minutes. Off the heat, add 2 tablespoons of the honey and the kirsch, and stir to combine. Cook for another minute to let the flavors blend. Pour the pears into a colander set over a bowl. Reserve the drained pears and the liquid separately.

In a mixing bowl, sift the flour, baking powder, and salt together twice.

Put the remaining 8 ounces (2 sticks) butter in another mixing bowl and whip with an electric mixer. Gradually add 2 cups of the sugar and then continue whipping until creamed, light, and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, whipping after each addition and scraping down the sides of the bowl. Add the vanilla and remaining 1/4 cup honey, and mix to combine. Add the flour mixture in three additions, mixing just enough to combine, no more. (Overmixing the cake at this point will make it tough.) Gently mix the pears into the batter with a rubber spatula.

Pour the batter into the prepared Bundt pan, and bake for 10 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 325° and bake until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean, 50 to 60 minutes. Let the cake cool for 20 minutes. Then carefully cut around the center post to loosen the cake, and umold it onto a platter. Let the cake cool completely.

For the glaze, heat the reserved pear cooking liquid with the remaining 1/3 cup sugar and the lemon juice in a small skillet over medium-high heat. Boil until the glaze bubbles thickly and a droplet feels sticky when pinched between your thumb and forefinger. (How long this takes will depend on how much liquid your pears released during cooking.) Cool slightly before brushing on the cake in three applications.

Yield: 8 to 10 servings

Source: The New Midwestern Table *by Amy Thielen*

aadl.org

Ann Arbor District Library

The Ann Arbor District Library and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor present two special events as part of the 2014 Jewish Book Festival.

Ayelet Waldman Discusses Her Novel, 'Love and Treasure'

Tuesday, November 11 | 7 - 8:30 PM
Downtown AADL

Ayelet Waldman's new novel weaves a tale around the true history of the Hungarian Gold Train in World War II. This richly detailed story poses hard questions about the value of precious things in a time when it seems life itself has no value.

Annabelle Gurwitch Discusses Her Book, 'I See You Made An Effort'

Sunday, November 16 | 7 - 9 PM
LIVE | 102 S. 1ST STREET

In her new book, *I See You Made An Effort: Compliments, Indignities, and Survival Stories from the Edge of 50*, comedic actress Annabelle Gurwitch confronts turning 50 with candor, wit, and humor.

Events include book signings with books for sale. There is no charge for admission.

aadl.org Ann Arbor District Library | JCC of Greater Ann Arbor

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

November 2014

Saturday 1

Torah Study with Alex Cicelsky: TBE. 8:30–10 a.m.

"Yiddish Literature and the Week's Parsha:" BIC and JCC. Presented by Anita Norich, UM Professor of English Language and Literature and of Judaic Studies, during Shabbat services at BIC. Part of the Yiddish Festival. 9:30 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11 a.m.

Klezmer Band and Dance Party: JCC and Jewish Federation. With opening act by Detroit Klez Kids, followed by the Midwest's premier Klezmer musical group, the Maxwell Street Band. Part of a week-long Yiddish Festival, supported in part by the Community Impact Grant via the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Also cosponsored by AARC and the Jewish Studies Department at Eastern Michigan University. $18/adult; $5/student. Tickets at www.jewishannarbor.org. EMU Student Center, Main Ballroom. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. 7:30 p.m.–midnight.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 2

Katan: BIC. 9:45 a.m.

Social Action Committee Meeting: BIC. 10:30 a.m.

Klezmer Music Workshop: AARC. Musicians of all ages will have a chance to learn from Klezmer masters who are members of the Maxwell Street Band. Register online at http://aarecon.com/maxwell-street-band/. Part of week-long Yiddish Festival, supported in part by the Community Impact Grant via the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Cosponsored by AARC and the JCC. JCC Newman Lounge. For information, leave message at 445-1910 or email Jennifer Cohen via www.aarecon.org/contact-us. To register, email cindy@jewishannarbor.org. 10–11:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

JCC Scouts of Ann Arbor: JCC. JCC Scouting program is a skill-building program for girls and boys in grades K-8. As part of membership, scouts receive a badge collector for badges that are collected as skills are mastered. For information, contact Ethan Krasnow at ethankrasnow@jccfed.org, Kellie Cohoon at kcohoon@jccfed.org, or phone 971-0990. Register online at www.jccannarbor.org. 1–5 p.m. *Sundays.*

Krav Maga Segment 2: JCC. For information, contact karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. *Sundays through November 9.*

Shir Chadash: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Kugel Cookoff and Community Dinner: TBE Sisterhood. Culminating activity for Ann Arbor's Yiddish Festival. Dinner includes kugel, salad, vegetables, dessert and drinks, plus entertainment. The diners will be the judges who will select the best kugel in four categories: sweet, vegetable, potato and dairy. To enter the contest, contact Hillary Handwerger at hillaryh@ix.netcom.com. Great prizes for winners. Tickets are $18 for adults; $12 for children ages 3–12. Free for children under 3. To purchase dinner tickets, visit http://bit.ly/1zncumY. Advance registration required. . Kol Halev will entertain with Yiddish songs. 5:30–8 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6–7 p.m.

Monday 3

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Mondays–Fridays, 9 a.m.–noon. Mondays–Thursdays, 1–3 p.m. For information, contact jessica@jfsannarbor.org.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Nosh and Nowledge: TBE. 7–8 p.m.

Tuesday 4

Tuesdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Callanetics with Diane Dahl featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14/non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar with low impact exercise in a supportive environment. $4 per session or 3 monthly sessions for $10. 10 a.m. Homemade dairy lunch buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Games and activities including mahjong and quilting, including making quilts for children of Mott Hospital; 1 p.m. For information, contact Leah Zaas at leahz@jfsannarbor.org or by phone at 769-0209, or phone the JCC at 971-0990. *Tuesdays.*

KidZone Vacation Days: JCC. KidZone Vacation provides full days of fun and adventure when the Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) and Hebrew Day School (HDS) have scheduled closures. Field trips and activities for kids in grades K-5. Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum staff will visit today to lead a workshop on The Human Body. JCC Member cost is $45 and community member cost is $70. For information, contact Ethan Krasnow at ethankrasnow@jccfed.org, Kellie Cohoon at kcohoon@jccfed.org, or phone 971-0990. Register online at www.jccannarbor.org. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

How Happiness Thinks: Chabad. This course offers an exciting journey into your own mind and psyche. Drawing on classical Jewish and mystical teachings, this course will present a deeper understanding of yourself and help with practical advice which, when implemented, will radically enhance the happiness quotient. 9:30–11 a.m. and 7:30–9 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League. 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Hebrew: 103. TBE. 6–7 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Wednesday 5

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon

Mahj: TBE. Off-site. 1–3 p.m.

"The Gaza War: A Different Approach to Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict:" Frankel Center. Presented by Abdel Monem Said Aly, Shai Feldman, and Khalil Shikaki. Annenberg Auditorium, UM Ford School of Public Policy, 735 South State Street, Weill Hall. For information, see www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 4–5:30 p.m.

Hebrew 100: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Book Festival Frankel Scholars Night: JCC and Frankel Center. The Frankel Scholars present Deborah Dash Moore, author of *Urban Origins of American Judaism;* Mikhail Krutikov, author of *Uncovering the Hidden: The Works and Life of Der Nister* and *Joseph Opatoshu: A Yiddish Writer Between Europe and America;* and Caroline Helton, author of *L'Infinito: Songs From a Lost World of Italian Jewish Composers, 1920-1945.* At the JCC. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org, phone 971-0990 or see www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 7–9 p.m.

Thursday 6

Thursdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Callanetics with Diane Dahl featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14/non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar with low impact exercise in a supportive environment. $4 per session or 3 monthly sessions for $10. 10 a.m. Current Events at 11 a.m. Homemade dairy lunch buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Also, monthly birthday celebrations. For information, contact Leah Zaas at leahz@jfsannarbor.org or by phone at 769-0209, or phone the JCC at 971-0990. *Thursdays.*

Social Action Hand-in-Hand Meeting: TBE. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Nosh and Nowledge: TBE. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Yoga With Shlomit: TBE. Noon–1:15 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. Easy and oldies from 7:30–8:30 p.m. Intermediate and requests from 8:30–10 p.m. $5 per class. Students and children free. Learn the latest Israeli dances, line dances, mixers and more. Families welcome. For information or to request a ride, contact Laura at a2rikud@gmail.com, phone 395-4223, or visit www.a2rikud.org. *Thursdays.*

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study from the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 7

Book Festival: JCC. Presentation by Anita Norich, author of *Writing in Tongues: Translating Yiddish in the 20th Century.* $10 per person in advance; $15 at the door. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Rabbi's Lunch and Learn: TBE. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6:00 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service/Bat Mitzvah. 7:30 p.m.

Russian Imperial Legacies Symposium: Frankel Center. At the UM Kelsey Museum, Newberry Building, 434 South State Street, Room 125. For information, see www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 9 a.m.–2:45 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 8

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 a.m.

Shabbat Morning Services and Discussion: AARC. Participative community service integrates traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary English readings, including Torah service and discussion. Led by Rabbi Michal Woll. For information, phone 845-2361 or email ravmichal@aarecon.org. Held at the JCC. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11:30 a.m.

Mini Minyan: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Shir Chadash: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6–7 p.m.

Book Festival Sponsor Reception: JCC. Dinner followed by a talk given by Robert Mankoff, author of *How About Never – Is Never Good Enough for You*? Dinner is by invitation only at 6:30 p.m. Public talk at 8 p.m. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 9

Mitzvah Day: BIC BIRS. 9:30 a.m.

Torah on Tap Brunch: TBE TNT. Off-site. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Book Festival Brunch: JCC. Brunch with local authors, including Susan Wineberg, author of *Historic Ann Arbor: An Architectural Guide;* Dina Shtull, author of *Why the Rabbi Played the Clarinet in the Sauna;* Judith Elkin, author of *The Jews of Latin America,* P'ninah and Karl Kanai, authors of *Kanoo Zoo;* Robin Goldberg, author of *Sound of Seeds;* and Eric Keller, author of *Dogs I Have Known, Brooklyn Dogs,* and *Artists, Poets and Philosophers.* $10 in advance; $15 at the door. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

JCC Scouts of Ann Arbor: JCC. 1–5 p.m. *Sundays. See November 2.*

Shir Chadash: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6–7 p.m.

Book Festival Films: JCC. Showing of films by Malcolm Clarke, *Prisoner of Paradise,* at 4 p.m. and *The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life,* at 7 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. $10 per film; $15 for dinner, must pay in advance; $25 for Film Pass, includes both films and dinner. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Monday 10

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. *Mondays. See November 3.*

Book Festival: JCC. Join luncheon with Gail Sheehy, author of *Daring: My Passages: A Memoir.* $10 in advance; $15 at the door. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. Noon–1:30 p.m.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–8:30 p.m.

Film Showings: Frankel Center. Showing of *Prisoner of Paradise* at 5 p.m. and *The Lady in Number 6,* at 8 p.m., by filmmaker Malcolm Clarke. UM East Quad, Keene Theater, 701 East University. 5–10 p.m.

Book Festival: JCC. Talk by Oliver Horovitz, author of *An American Caddie in St. Andrews.* For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7–9 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

[E]met: An Honest Conversation About Death: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 11

Tuesdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. *Tuesdays. See November 4.*

How Happiness Thinks: Chabad. 9:30–11 a.m. and 7:30–9 p.m. *Tuesdays. See November 4.*

Book Festival: JCC. Lunch with Zieva Konvisser, author of *Living Beyond Terrorism.* $10 in advance; $15 at the door. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. Noon-1:30 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League. 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Hebrew: 103. TBE. 6–7 p.m.

Book Festival: JCC. Talk by Ayelet Waldman, author of *Love and Treasure,* at the Ann Arbor Public Library Main Branch. 7 p.m.

Mussar: BIC. 8 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Wednesday 12

Book Festival: JCC. Lunch with Yochi Dreazen, author of *The Invisible Front*. $10 in advance; $15 at the door. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. Noon–1:30 p.m.

Abrahamic Dinner: TBE. 4–8 p.m.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Hebrew 100: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Book Festival: JCC. Talk by Liel Leibowitz, author of *A Broken Hallelujah.* For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7–9 p.m.

Sisterhood Series: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Thursday 13

Thursdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. *Thursdays. See November 6.*

Book Festival: JCC. Lunch with Barbara Winton, author of *If It's Not Impossible: The Life of Sir Nicholas Winton.* $10 in advance; $15 at the door. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Jewish Yoga With Shlomit: TBE. Noon–1:15 p.m.

"Ex-Converso Jewish Sephardi Echoes of Iberian Imperialism": Frankel Center. Presented by

Claude Stuczyniski, Frankel Institute Fellow. 202 South Thayer, Room 2022. For information, see www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 12:15 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Book Festival: JCC. Talk by James Grymes, author of *Violins of Hope.* For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7–9 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. *Thursdays. See November 6.*

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Thursdays. See November 6.*

Friday 14

Rabbi's Lunch and Learn: TBE. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Book Festival: JCC. Talk by Dori Weinstein, author of *Sliding Into the New Year* and *Shaking in the Shack.* For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 2–3:30 p.m.

Seventh Grade Shabbat Dinner: BIC. 7 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6:00 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service/Learner's Service and Birthday/Anniversary Celebration at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of tcalendar.*

Saturday 15

Brotherhood Breakfast: TBE. Off-site. 8:30–10 a.m.

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Sixth Grade Shabbat Morning with the Rabbis: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

KidZone@Night: JCC. On select Saturday nights, kids in grades K–5 will play games, make crafts, eat dinner and watch a movie at the JCC. Pizza and drinks included. $20/JCC members; $25/community members. For information, contact Ethan Krasnow at ethankrasnow@jccfed.org, Kellie Cohoon at kcohoon@jccfed.org, or phone 971-0990. Register online at www.jccannarbor.org. 6–10 p.m.

"Jewish Dilemmas and the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict": JCC. An evening of learning with author and UM Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies Zvi Gitelman. Begins with community Havdalah ceremony and dessert reception. For information, contact Sarah Schneider Hong at sarah.hong@jfsannarbor.org. At the JCC from 7–8:30 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 16

Festival: JCC. Join others for "Story Day," featuring readings by Gari Stein, author of *The More We Get Together;* P'ninah and Karl Kanai, authors of *Kanoo Zoo;* and Dina Shtull, author of *Why the Rabbi Played the Clarinet in the Sauna.* $5 per child in advance; $10 at the door. Parents free. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Frankel Scholar's Forum: Frankel Center. At the JCC West Bloomfield, 6600 West Maple Road. For information, see www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 10 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

Rishonim Goes Bowling: TBE. Off-site. 8:30–10 a.m.

JCC Scouts of Ann Arbor: JCC. 1–5 p.m. *Sundays. See November 2.*

Trinkets and Treasures: TBE. 3–10 p.m.

Shir Chadash: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Book Festival: JCC. Talk by Annabelle Gurwitch, author of *I See You Made An Effort.* For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7–9 p.m.

Harp Concert: BIC. Spotlight on Laurel Federbush. 7:45 p.m.

Monday 17

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. *Mondays.*

Comforting the Mourner: TBE. A prep class for leading/attending Shiva Minyan. 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Memory Preservation Lab: JCC. Dina Shtull, of *Downsize With Dignity,* will present, "Preserving Memories: How To Make Difficult Decisions." As we accumulate items, we often become emotionally attached and when it is time to downsize, difficult decisions must be made. This workshop will offer strategies for deciding what to keep for use now and what to keep for the next generation. 7–9 p.m.

Comforting the Mourner: TBE. A prep class for leading/attending Shiva Minyan: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday 18

Tuesdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. *Tuesdays. See November 4.*

How Happiness Thinks: Chabad. 9:30–11 a.m. and 7:30–9 p.m. *Tuesdays. See November 4.*

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League. 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Yiddish Film Series: Frankel Center. Showing of *Uncle Moses.* 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022 Thayer Building. For information, see www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 5 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Hebrew: 103: TBE. 6–7 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Wednesday 19

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

Mahj: TBE. Off-site. 1–3 p.m.

Comforting the Mourner: TBE. A prep class for leading/attending Shiva Minyan: TBE. 4:30–7:30 p.m.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Hebrew 100: TBE. 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Comforting the Mourner: TBE. A prep class for leading/attending Shiva Minyan: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Thursday 20

Thursdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. *Thursdays. See November 6.*

Jewish Yoga With Shlomit: TBE. Noon–1:15 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

"An Intellectual Biography of Philo of Alexander": Frankel Center. Presented by Maren Niehoff of Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 435 South State Street, 2175 Angell Hall on UM campus. For information, see www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 4 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. *Thursdays. See November 6.*

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Thursdays. See November 6.*

"Current Challenges for and Successes in Human Rights Work in Israel: Rabbis for Human Rights Beyond the First 25 Years": BIC and AARC. Also cosponsored by JCS, Pardes Hannah, and TBE. Presented by Rabbi Arik Ascherman at the JCC. 8 p.m.

Friday 21

Rabbi's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal discussion. Participants are welcome to bring lunch. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Afternoon Delights: JCC. Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra chamber recital music concerts. Symphony musicians and guests play freshly minted pieces along with time-honored classics. Hour-long concerts preceded by dessert and coffee at 1 p.m. Concerts begin at 1:30 p.m. This month's selection is Schumann's *Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 47* on strings. For information, contact karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Gan/Alef Consecration: BIC. 6 p.m.

Friday Night Lights Dinner: BIC. 7 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service with Kol Halev and Installation of Cantor Lambert-Hayut at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 22

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11:30 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Motown Dance Party: BIC. At LIVE at 102 South First Street. Featuring live music from Soultivity. Admission $10 in advance, or $15 at the door. Cash bar. All proceeds to benefit BIC Alternative Spring Break program. For information, contact Marcie Greenfield at marciegreen@yahoo.com or Dennie Carbeck at dencarb@comcast.net. 6:30-9 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 23

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

JCC Scouts of Ann Arbor: JCC. 1–5 p.m. *Sundays. See November 2.*

Memory Preservation Lab: JCC. Dina Shtull, of *Downsize With Dignity,* will present, "Preserving Memories: How To Make Difficult Decisions." As we accumulate items, we often become emotionally attached and when it is time to downsize, difficult decisions must be made. This workshop will offer strategies for deciding what to keep for use now and what to keep for the next generation. 3–5 p.m.

Shir Chadash: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Evenings in the Library with Authors: TBE. Tonight's author is Dina Shtull. 6–7:30 p.m.

Kol Halev: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration: BIC and Baha'i. Annual celebration. Held at Baha'i Local Spiritual Assembly, 5550 Morgan Road in Ypsilanti. 7 p.m.

TOV Social Justice: JCC. TOV Social Justice Community reads event. For information, visit www.jewishannarbor.org. 7–9 p.m.

Monday 24

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 25

Tuesdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. *Tuesdays. See November 4.*

How Happiness Thinks: Chabad. 9:30–11 a.m. and 7:30–9 p.m. *Tuesdays. See November 4.*

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): Beanster's Café in UM Michigan League. 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Hebrew: 103. TBE. 6–7 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays.*

Wednesday 26

Pie Pick-up: TBE AARTY. 3–7 p.m.

Hebrew 100: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Erev Thanksgiving Service: TBE. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Thursday 27

Thursdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. *Thursdays. See November 6.*

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. *Thursdays. See November 6.*

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m. *Thursdays. See November 6.*

Friday 28

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6:00 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Friday Shabbat: AARC. Musical Kabbalat Shabbat services are held at the JCC and are led by Rabbi Michal Woll. Services followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner. Pizza nosh for children before services at 6 p.m. and childcare provided during services from 6:30–7:45 p.m. Reservations requested for pizza and childcare. Leave a message at 445-1910 or email **info@aarecon.org. 6:30–10 p.m.**

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of tcalendar.*

Saturday 29

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 30

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

JCC Scouts of Ann Arbor: JCC. 1–5 p.m. *Sundays. See November 2.*

Monday 31

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. *Mondays.*

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the fourth Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6:00 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Congregation. Morning services held the second Saturday of each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon integrating traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary readings including Torah service and discussion. A morning of songs and text study takes place the first Saturday of each

Vitals

Mazel tov

Talia Akiva, on her bat mitzvah, November 7.
Daniel Hirshbein on his bar mitzvah, November 8.
Danielle Castell on her bat mitzvah, November 15.
Mackenzie Lieberman, on her bat mitzvah, November 15.
Lauren Bacal on her bat mitzvah, November 22.
Sam Brown, on his bar mitzvah, November 29.
Aaron and Rachel Levy on the birth of their son, Dean Solomon Levy.
Sharon and Chuck Newman on the birth of their grandson, Gabriel Joseph Newman, to Trish and Mike Newman, September 5.

Condolences

Michael Livshiz on the death of his father, Abram Livshits, September 12.
Judy Freedman, on the death of her mother, Madeline Boye, September 16.
Joel Rubenstein on the death of his grandmother, Lilian Finkelstein-Falick, September 16.
Susan Guralnick, on the death of her brother, Robert Greenspan, September 19.
Joyce Gerber on the death of her mother, Sarah Schneider, September 21.
Sheri Eisenbeiser on the death of her mother, Helen Netler, September 24.
Jason Schwalb and Samantha Hendren on the death of their daughter, Anna Hendren Schwalb, October 1.
Fern Vining, on the death of her husband, Gordon Vining, October 4.
Howie Saulles, on the death of his mother, Dorothy Saulles, October 5.
Mark Shalinsky on the death of his father, Gerald Earnest Shalinsky, October 6.

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month. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown. Call 995-3276 for Home Hospitality and Meals for Shabbat and Jewish Holidays.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Fequently listed phone numbers and addresses of organizations:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

November 2	6:06 p.m.
November 9	4:58 p.m.
November 16	4:51 p.m.
November 23	4:46 p.m.
November 30	4:43 p.m.

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San Francisco Symphony

Michael Tilson Thomas, music director and conductor
Gil Shaham, violin (Friday)
UMS Choral Union (Friday)
Thursday, November 13, 7:30 pm
Friday, November 14, 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM (THURSDAY 11/13)

Mahler Symphony No. 7 ("Song of the Night")

PROGRAM (FRIDAY 11/14)

Liszt Mephisto Waltz No. 1
Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 2 in g minor, Op. 63
Ravel Daphnis et Chloé (complete)

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